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TOPICS OF THE DAY.

WANTED, a General! This is not the first time in the history of the world that a nation unused to war has sought for a commander from among a more martial, if less fortunate, people. The result, however, has never been very satisfactory; and therefore, for every reason, we rejoice that Garibaldi has declined the flattering offer made to him by the President of the Federal States. Even had Fortune still crowned his arms with laurels, he would have added nothing to his true glory. It was his patriotism, his single-mindedness, his chivalrous abnegation of self, and not the mere fact of his success, that rendered him the idol of his own countrymen, and the object of heartfelt admiration in every land where the manly virtues in their most perfect development are still appreciated. No doubt a feeling of wonder was excited by the greatness of the ends achieved by such apparently insignificant means; but to his heroic qualities alone was due the lofty position he so quickly obtained in the eye of the world. Those, even, who have just invited him to come and be their leader, felt that no idle vanity or ambition would have any weight with the illustrious exile of Caprera. The only temptation that could tear him, for ever so brief an interval of time, from the sight of the Italian shore, must somehow be connected with the emancipation of his fellow-men. So it was proposed to him that he should assist thirty millions of white men in slaying and subduing half that number of their own kinsmen, in the hope of conferring freedom upon a few millions of blacks. It is well for his reputation that Garibaldi saw through the snare and had strength to resist the wiles of the tempter. There is yet work in store for him in his own country and among his own people; nor could any more disastrous calamity befall the new kingdom of Italy than the absence or death of her hero in a fratricidal war waged without just cause and for no legitimate object; the conditional offer of the liberation of the negroes being scarcely consistent with Mrs. Beecher Stowe's declaration that it is solely for that noble purpose the Northern States have taken up arms with such enthusiasm. If the President and

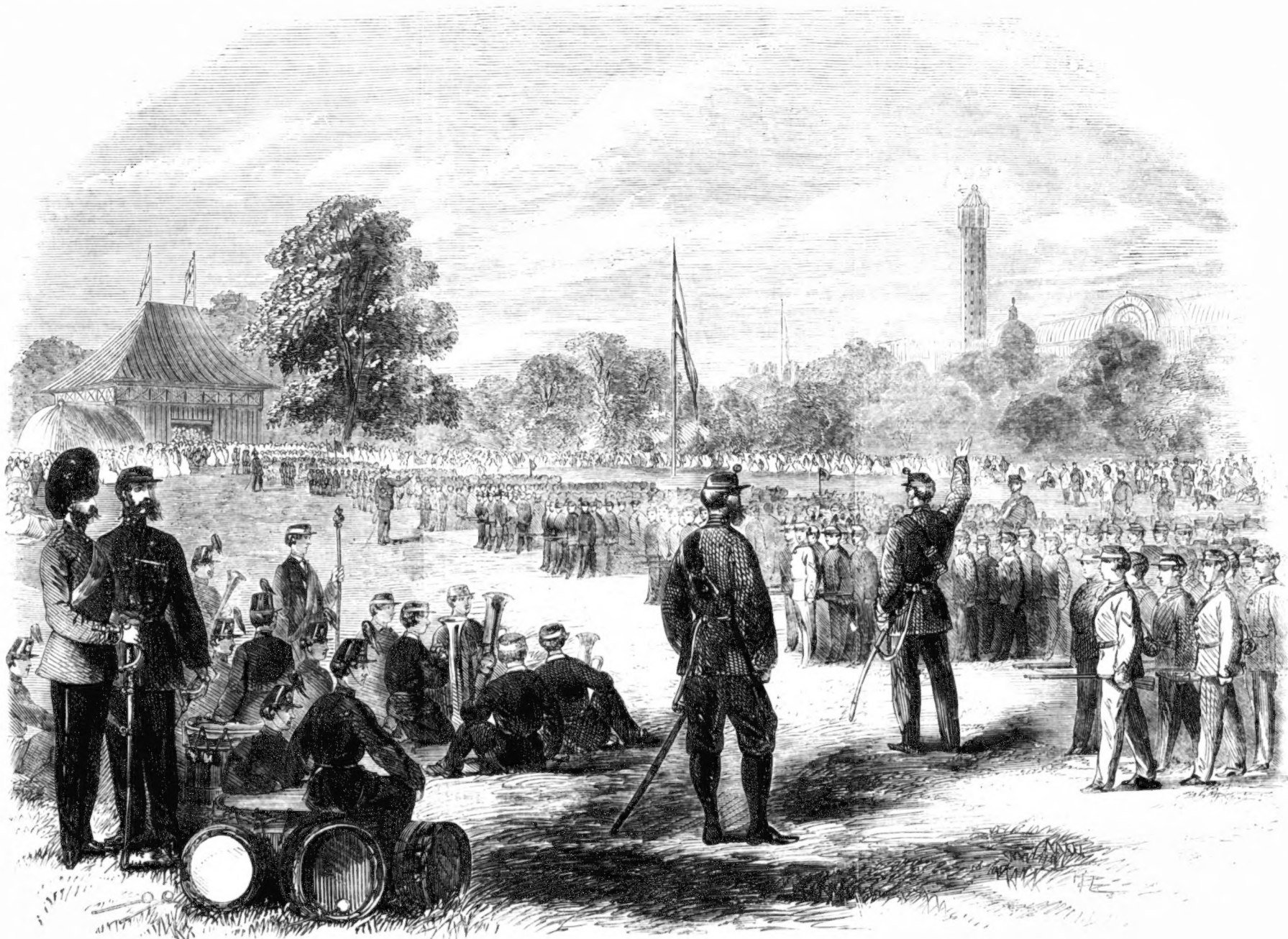
his advisers have really resolved to accomplish the abolition of slavery by the slaughter of their brethren in the South, then was it a juggle and an insult to promise this consummation to Garibaldi as the price of his devotion to their cause; and if, on the other hand, they have no such "high resolve," then is Mrs. Stowe's letter to Lord Shaftesbury a downright impertinence and a tissue of untruths. For the rest, the Federalists have at last obtained their first success, and one that may possibly exercise considerable influence on the fortunes of the coming campaign. So little, however, is known of the forces and movements of the Confederates, that it is hardly safe to speculate upon the issue of a contest that can scarcely yet be said to have commenced.

The solution of the Roman question appears to be again receding into the obscurity whence it lately seemed about to emerge. If the *Patrie* is to be credited, there are still "transactions" to be completed and "guarantees" provided before the French troops can be withdrawn from the Eternal City; but, if the other Government papers are correctly informed, France is too high-minded to haggle with an ally in his hour of need, and too powerful to need any security but that afforded by her own right arm. Savoy and Nice, say they, belonged as of right to French territory, and, besides, it was really necessary to rectify the frontier in that quarter; but Sardinia is Italian soil, and the possession thereof by France would be an act of conquest, not an annexation. It would certainly be a robbery and an act of spoliation, but the "dynasty" that is the peculiar care of Providence has not always exhibited very nice scruples on that score. Sometimes, however, continued prosperity generates good principles, a greater respect for the rights of neighbours, and generally a higher tone of feeling and morality. It is just within the bounds of possibility that such may be its effect upon the present Ruler of the French, though it would be rather hazardous to reckon upon such a contingency.

The Feast of Tabernacles celebrated in an English park would be a spectacle to rejoice the heart of the author of "Tancred" if

is one that has been witnessed—"in the mind's eye, Horatio"—by the Jesuit-haunted member for Warwickshire, Mr. Newdegate. The presence, however, of so many comely matrons and soft-eyed maidens should rather, one would imagine, have called up visions of the Feast of Roses and "the Light of the Harem, the young Novo Mahal." But, in truth, it was a broken image that presented itself to this worthy admirer of old times and ancient usages. He appears somehow to have placed Nimrod also among the patriarchs, and to have regarded the Feast of Tabernacles as the first "meet" of the season. In an instant he broke cover from amidst the leafy tents of the Israelites, and with Fancy's ear heard the shrill "Tally-ho!" or the huntsman, the merry music of the hounds in full cry, and the heavy gallop of the eager hunters. It is not, indeed, as schools of eloquence that these annual county gatherings are resorted to by men of all ranks and of all shades of political opinion. Nor is it merely to exhibit their ox or their ass, or the ploughman within their gates, that the "bold yeomanry" come together on such occasions, nor yet solely to listen to a statesman with bucolic tendencies lecture upon fat cattle and the hostile armaments of the Emperor of the French. The chief attraction and the real benefit of these associations is the prospect of meeting distant friends and relatives, and of comparing different styles and fashions of agriculture. The public dinner, too, at the termination of the day's proceedings, is a thoroughly English and admirable institution, even though the wines be as hot as the meats are cold. *Les grandes pensées viennent de l'estomac*; and doubtless many a young farmer homeward jogging from his annual banquet then first conceives the ambition of carrying off a prize from Baker-street. In this, perchance, he may be disappointed, but in the effort he has improved his farm and reaped two ears of corn where his fathers scarce gathered one.

There is still corn in the land of Egypt; but where is the cotton to be found for which the shipowners of Liverpool and the manufacturers of Manchester are alike growing clamorous! India, we are told, is capable of furnishing an abundant supply



REVIEW OF THE VOLUNTEER CADETS AT THE CRYSTAL PALACE

not only for its own wants and those of China, but of this country likewise. How, then, does it happen that we do not hear of shipments of that valuable staple for the English mart? The answer is more simple than satisfactory. There is no lack of cotton in the interior of the country, but there are no roads or means of transport for bringing it down to the seaboard. Besides this, the natives are both dishonest and careless, and will do nothing without European superintendence. And here we arrive at the chief obstacle in the path of our British capitalists. So long as the effete traditions of a governing class are allowed to remain in force, no European gentleman with the slightest respect for himself can be expected to incur the risk of "the proud man's contumely." Every mail that arrives from India brings fresh accounts of the apparent hostility of the Bengal civilians towards the European planters and traders. If a dispute arise between these and the native peasantry it is the word of the latter that is accepted, while every possible slight and insult are offered to the former, whose only hope is now centred in Lord Canning's successor. It will greatly depend upon the first few months of Lord Elgin's viceroyalty whether British capital and enterprise be attracted to the development of the vast natural resources of India, or whether, disheartened by losses and annoyances, the present settlers in that inhospitable land throw up the adventure in disgust and tempt their fortunes in New Zealand or Australia.

THE CADET REVIEW AT THE CRYSTAL PALACE.

OUR readers are aware, from the notice by the "Lounger" last week, that on the 11th inst. one of the most interesting incidents which have occurred since the commencement of the volunteer movement took place at the Crystal Palace—namely, the review by Major Mayne, Adjutant of the Queen's Westminster Rifles, of nearly 1000 cadets attached to the various metropolitan and suburban volunteer corps. We now publish an Engraving illustrative of the review, and supply some details of the proceedings of the day. The review took place on the cricket-ground, which had been placed at the disposal of the cadets by the Crystal Palace Company, and shortly after three o'clock, when the proceedings commenced, every available spot from which the manoeuvres could be witnessed was filled by spectators, including a large number of elegantly-dressed ladies, who again and again testified their approbation of the manner in which the youthful volunteers acquitted themselves. Each company was officered by cadet commanders, and the whole affair may be said to have been a decided success. The following is a list of the corps represented, together with the number of cadets who were present:—The Queen's Westminster, 100; the London Rifle Brigade, 100; the South Middlesex, 120; the 1st Surrey, 40; the 33rd Middlesex, 65; the 7th and 39th Middlesex, 50; the 3rd Kent, 85; the 13th and 21st Kent, 40; the 29th Middlesex, 105; the Douro House School, 46; the 26th Middlesex, 80; the 2nd Tower Hamlets, 50; the 4th Tower Hamlets, 30; the 6th Tower Hamlets, 30; and the 40th Middlesex, 30. The usual manoeuvres incident to a field-day were performed in a manner highly creditable to the cadets themselves and their instructors, the formation into column, wheeling into line, and advancing and retiring in line being executed with a steadiness and precision which would have done credit to much older soldiers. At the conclusion of the manoeuvres Major Mayne briefly addressed the cadets. He said that he was much obliged to them for the manner in which they had executed the movements that day; they had performed them in a way which did great credit to themselves and the gentlemen who had acted as their instructors, and he thought he did not in the least exaggerate when he said that many volunteer corps who considered themselves efficient would do well to follow their example. He expressly commended the commanders of companies, who had acquitted themselves to his entire satisfaction. He was sorry that he could not do more for the cadets than he had yet done, for he took a great interest in them, and was much pleased at what he had seen that day, and if at any future time they should require any one to review them he should be happy and proud in doing so. He concluded by asking them to give three cheers for their instructors, which was vociferously responded to, and the different corps marched off the ground, headed by their several bands, to the Palace, where refreshments had been provided for them. In addition to the cadet drum and fife bands, the brass band of the Douro House School, St. John's-wood, and those of the 1st Surrey, South Middlesex, and 6th Tower Hamlets Rifles, were present, and enlivened the proceedings by some excellent music.

A PORTABLE ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH FOR WARLIKE PURPOSES.—The subjoined letter from Châlons shows that considerable improvements have been made in this new engine of warfare:—"We have had experiments with the portable telegraph which succeeded perfectly, and which are very curious. A carriage is constructed for that purpose, in which several cylinders or enormous bobbins are fixed, round which is rolled a quantity of iron wire of the thickness of a strong cord. This wire is passed by machinery into the box of one of the wheels, and according as cavalry soldiers follow, wheel turns and unrolls the wire. A platoon of cavalry soldiers follows. Two men alight at every fifty paces to raise the wire on a slight stick. Four others do the same while the first are moving forward, and raise the wire with a forked pole, which they fix in the ground, and which they relieve the other cords strengthened with iron plates. That being done, they go forward to the next station, and they do so in turn. The horses in the carriage move at a gallop, and the telegraph is fixed with extraordinary rapidity. The apparatus is worked in the carriage, which serves as an office. During the last manoeuvres Marshal McMahon tried this invention over a space of from seven to eight kilometres, and it succeeded perfectly. Moreover, when it is intended to return, the action of the cylinders is reversed, and the carriage is turned round, preceded by the men, who take down the poles, replace them in a light wagon, and wind up the bobbins. Nothing can be more ingenious, and in particular more simple, than this invention, and from the latter quality it may be said to have attained perfection."

THE ROMAN QUESTION.—A Paris correspondent of the *Indépendance* says:—"The First Minister of the kingdom of Italy has, it appears, sent, or is on the point of sending, new proposals to the Court of Rome, with a view to a settlement of the difficulty between the Pope and Italy. M. Ricasoli, in this final appeal to the feelings of Pius IX., has clearly laid down the conditions of a reconciliation which, in the opinion of all unprejudiced persons, can alone save the interests of religion, already so seriously compromised by the conduct of the Papal Government. In asking from the Pope the abdication of his temporal power, Italy offers to the Papacy every possible security and advantage which it could require in the interest of the independence of the Church, and in that of the spiritual authority of the Head of Catholicity—complete freedom in all the arrangements relating to the religious movement—a personal position surrounded by all the splendour and security which the faithful of Italy and the Catholic world could require for their Pontiff. The Italian Government would even assign to the Pope, if I am well informed, a part of the city of Rome, in which he would exercise sovereign rights—in which he would have with him the Sacred College and all the functionaries who, with him, are charged with watching and protecting the interests of the Catholic religion."

BLACK MAIL LAYED ON THIEVES.—The arrest of a numerous band of thieves in Paris has led to the discovery of a new category of malefactors, who contrive to lead a free and easy life by levying a kind of black mail on thieves and swindlers. These men, who are called *flics*, and always go well dressed, are perfectly familiar with the habits and slang of the various categories of malefactors. Their mode of proceeding is to watch any thief or swindler whom they see about to exercise his craft, and, as soon as he has succeeded in his attempt, to demand a share to the amount of 15 per cent. upon some divers threats of delivering him up to the police. The thieves for some time strove hard to get rid of these parasites, who lived in clover at their expense, and without incurring any great risk. Several of them have, however, just been arrested, in consequence of disclosures made by the band of thieves recently captured.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The Emperor and Empress still continue at Biarritz. The report that the Imperial family meditated an excursion into Spain is contradicted.

The election at Avignon of a member to the French Chambers has resulted in the return of the Government candidate, who obtained 18,053 votes against 4018 votes polled for the candidate of the Catholic party.

The *Moniteur*, in contradiction to the assertions of the Vienna journals, affirms that no extraordinary credit has been opened for naval armaments and the building of ships, which, it says, are this year continued on the usual scale, and within the limits of the normal budget.

The *Patrie*, having again revived the Sardinian question, by hinting at "compensations" and "guarantees" to be given by Italy to France, has called forth some very decided statements from the two semi-official papers, the *Constitutionnel* and the *Pays*. An article in the *Constitutionnel*, signed by M. Grenier, disavows all intention to require Sardinia on the part of France, and says:—"France will never ask for a single inch of Italian soil. The island of Sardinia is Italian soil, and for us to take it would not be an annexation but a conquest." And the *Pays* also adds its testimony to the like effect, concluding its article thus:—"The policy of distrust which the *Patrie* would wish to inaugurate towards Italy belongs only to itself. France, with her forty millions of souls and her genius, has no guarantees to demand of Italy. Neither distrust nor conquest—such is the programme which all generous hearts applaud, which liberal Europe applauds, and which posterity will also applaud." We trust, for the honour of France, if not for that of her ruler, that these two journals are truer exponents of the Imperial mind than their contemporary, and that the policy of Louis Napoleon will honourably belie the insinuations of the *Patrie* and the general suspicions and common rumours of Europe.

SPAIN.

The negotiations between Spain and Morocco, through the mediation of England, have for the present failed; but it is believed that there will be no renewal of the war—at least for the present. A Madrid paper says it is asserted that Muley Abbas has decided upon coming to Madrid. The object of his visit will be to give guarantees for the payment of the indemnity.

The Spanish Government, in reply to an application made by Baron Tecco, the Italian Minister, has declared that it has decided upon retaining the archives of the Neapolitan Consulate.

The *Epoca* contradicts a statement which appeared in a Belgian paper to the effect that M. Claret had attacked the Emperor Napoleon from the pulpit, and adds—"The preachers of the Queen never introduce political matters into their sermons, and her Majesty would not allow any Sovereign or any Government to be abused in her presence."

ITALY.

The King arrived at Florence at seven o'clock last Saturday evening, in order to open the Exhibition of Italian Industry. His Majesty was received with the greatest enthusiasm at Leghorn, and also at all the railway stations on his route. At Florence large crowds of people assembled at the places and in the streets which his Majesty would pass. On his arrival at the Pitti Palace the King, visibly affected by the warm and incessant cheering of the immense crowd which filled the square, appeared several times on the balcony, and thanked the people for the loyal and enthusiastic reception they had given him. The opening of the Italian Exhibition took place on Sunday. The King, replying to a speech delivered by the President of the Commission, expressed the pleasure he felt in inaugurating the first Italian exhibition in the city which might be called the cradle of the arts and sciences. His Majesty said his principal care was to establish the unity of Italy, and to develop the elements of her prosperity. He concluded as follows:—"Our great national work is not yet perfected, but on this occasion Italy, which is completely represented at this exhibition, again manifests her wish to be one united nation." His Majesty left the exhibition amid the vociferous cheers of the audience. A deputation from the National Guard of Palermo had arrived at Florence to be present at the opening of the Exhibition, and been warmly received by the population.

From Naples we learn that order has been re-established in the provinces of Avellino, Terra di Bari, and Benevento. General Pinelli, with 8000 men, has explored the wood of Monte Cocchio. The village of Cipriano is surrounded by the Italian troops. Generals Chiabrera and Zongone have driven the brigands from the mountains between Aquila and Terni. Maracca, a notorious bandit of Calabria, has made his submission, which event, it is said, ensures the tranquillity of that province. On the other hand, it is announced that Chiavone, having received reinforcements from Rome, attacked Castelluccio, near Sora, with two hundred men, but was repulsed with great loss, and retreated into Roman territory; and that during the night between Thursday and Friday last week a band of 100 Bourbon brigands landed in Calabria, between Brezzano and Brancalene. They are now surrounded by the troops and the National Guard. A rumour obtained currency last week that the Spanish Carlist leader, Cabrera, had joined the Bourbonists on Neapolitan territory; it is now stated, however, that it is only one of his lieutenants who has done so. The Foreign Minister of Francis II. has contradicted the statements of Baron Ricasoli as to the organisation of brigands in Rome; and characterises the Baron's circular as a tissue of lies and malicious misstatements.

The free importation of wheat, maize, oil, and of all articles of consumption, has been authorised in the Pontifical provinces; and the exportation of these articles is prohibited.

General Goyon has sent nearly all his troops, even those which occupied Vitello, to take up positions along the northern and southern frontiers of the Papal territory. The police have seized the list of Roman subscriptions to the Cavour monument.

A demonstration which the Papal party at Rome had prepared for the 8th inst. is stated to have proved a failure, the national party having, during the preceding night, hoisted tricoloured flags on all the public monuments. Similar demonstrations have taken place at Livorno, Velletri, Frascati, Albano, and Grottaferata. Numerous arrests have been made in consequence.

AUSTRIA.

The Hungarian Diet, it is stated, will be convened for the 1st of December, and that of Transylvania for the end of October. The elections in Istria so far are favourable to the Government, and it appears certain that deputies will be sent to the Reichsrath. The Government will take the diploma of October last as the basis of future negotiations with Hungary. The Cardinal Primate of Hungary lately paid a visit to Vienna, the object and result of which are thus stated in the *Ost Deutsche Post*:—"The Cardinal Primate has returned to Gran. He did not succeed in obtaining an audience of his Majesty, and Count Forgach declared to him that the Government saw no reason to abandon the track on which they entered when they pronounced the dissolution of the Diet. The Primate came to Vienna to sound in the name of the Deak party, and to see if he could not obtain the adoption of the programme of that statesman. The Primate is quite in disgrace at Court."

The *Oesterreichische Zeitung* says:—"The Government has decided upon not granting any new constitutional organisation to Venetia. The privileges of the existing Central Congregation will, however, be extended."

It is positively asserted that Baron Kemény, Aulic Chancellor for Transylvania, has tendered his resignation, and that it has been accepted by the Emperor.

HOLLAND.

The King of Holland opened the Session of the States-General on Monday in a lengthy speech. Political affairs are not much mentioned by his Majesty, who chiefly confines himself to topics connected with the material progress and condition of the country. These are represented as being generally satisfactory.

GERMANY.

The Catholic Society of Frankfurt, in a general meeting of that body, has pronounced in favour of the temporal power of the Pope, and called on M. Dollinger, the Professor of Canon Law, to retract the opinions he expressed in some of his recent lectures on that subject. The Professor has been compelled to make a full recantation, and to declare the temporal power essential to the spiritual supremacy of the Holy See.

DENMARK.

M. Orla Lehmann will shortly enter the Cabinet as Minister of Justice. He was Minister in 1848, and since then has been a leading member of the national Liberal party. He has also for many years supported the idea of granting an independent position to Holstein, and rendering Denmark and Schleswig independent of the Germanic Diet.

POLAND.

A demonstration took place in Posen (Prussian Poland) on the 12th, the anniversary of the deliverance of Vienna from the Turks by Sobieski, in 1683. The shops were shut, and the people paraded the streets in the national Polish costume. An intended excursion to Samta, where there is a chapel raised in honour of Sobieski, was prevented by the authorities. No serious disturbance took place. Warsaw is still in a very gloomy and unsettled state, popular demonstrations continuing to occur.

TURKEY AND MONTENEGRO.

Riza Pacha has been named Governor of Aleppo, which is tantamount to a sentence of exile.

According to news received from Scutari, an insurrectionary movement threatens to break out at that place. The Turks have made common cause with the Christian mountaineers, and demand the dismissal of Abdi Pacha. The contingents from Buda have joined the Montenegrin army, which numbers about 16,000 men. Omer Pacha, who has 32,000 soldiers under his command, occupies good positions and the paths leading to the mountains. He is stated to be within half a league of the frontier, and meditates an immediate attack on the Montenegrins, the whole of whose force—that is to say, all the males between 16 and 60—has marched to the frontier. Severe fighting was supposed to be imminent when the last advice left.

AMERICA.

From America we learn that the naval expedition, under the command of General Butler, had so far accomplished its mission as to capture the forts at the mouth of Hatteras Inlet, on the coast of North Carolina. The particulars of this affair, over which the New York papers have been greatly glorifying themselves, will be found elsewhere. The bombardment did not last long, as the garrison, consisting of between 600 and 700 officers and men, capitulated on the day after it began. General Butler, on his return to Washington, announced to the crowd by whom he was serenaded that as soon as the cold weather set in the army would proceed to march southwards. This may have had reference to the contemplated operations of General Fremont down the Mississippi.

President Davis is reported, on what is deemed good authority, to be dead. This is not unlikely, as he was known to be suffering from fever.

Mr. Secretary Chase has issued an important appeal to the public in behalf of the popular loan, showing that it is the interest as well as the duty of every one who has money to invest to place it at this crisis in the hands of the Government.

INDIA.

At the date of the latest news India remained perfectly tranquil unmolested by domestic or foreign enemies. On the heels of the departing famine we have, however, unfortunately to announce the approach of the scarcely less dreaded cholera, which was making frightful ravages in Agra and Meerut especially.

CHINA.

In China there has been no interruption of the peaceful relations between the English and French Plenipotentiaries and the Chinese Government. The Shantung rebels had received a defeat at the hands of our old enemy, Sankolinsin, and the Taeping rebellion was wearing itself out. All was quite in Japan.

AUSTRALASIA.

The first reformed Parliament of Victoria had been dissolved, and a new Parliament summoned to meet on the 26th of August. The cause of the dissolution was a provision added to the Appropriation Bill by the Assembly limiting the supplies to the end of the month of August, which they refused to withdraw, though the Governor, in a message, suggested its omission, as being an infringement of the Royal prerogative.

In Sydney there was a complete lull in politics, the only matter of interest being a renewal of the disturbances at the Lambing Flat Diggings, and the loss of several lives.

The proceedings of the natives in New Zealand lead to the belief that a renewal of the war is inevitable.

DISASTROUS TERMINATION OF THE AUSTRALIAN EXPLORING EXPEDITION.—Sad news has been received about the Australian exploring expedition. Mr. Brahe, one of the party, arrived in Melbourne on the 20th of June, and reported that Mr. Burke, the leader of the expedition, left Cooper's Creek on Dec. 16, to start for the Gulf of Carpentaria, and that nothing had been heard of him since. He was accompanied by Messrs. Wills, King, and Gray, and six camels and one horse, and left the remainder of his party under the charge of Mr. Brahe, at Cooper's Creek. The party remaining at the dépot were Messrs. Brahe (in charge), Patton, McDonogh, Dost Mohammed, and camels and twelve horses. Mr. Wright, the officer in charge of the contingent party left at the Darling, moved on towards Cooper's Creek. It being summer, nearly all the water-courses had been dried up, and the ravages of scurvy reduced the effective strength of the party to an alarming extent. Unable to proceed from these causes he established a camp and stockade at Bulla, where the natives became hostile, and repeatedly attacked them. Mr. Ludwig Becker, the naturalist and artist, and a gentleman of great scientific acquirements, and Messrs. Charles Stone, William Purcell, and Patten, died at various intervals during the journey. Three of the horses perished from exhaustion, two of the camels from scab, and another was lost.

A PLEASANT LAND TO LIVE IN.—A young man, named Richmond, from this city, while hunting in the woods near Ottawa, Canada, a few days since, lost his way. He retired to rest at night under a tree, and was suddenly awakened by the presence of a rattlesnake. In the act of striking the reptile with the butt of his gun, it missed the snake, struck against a tree, and was discharged, but fortunately causing Richmond no injury. Again using the gun, the snake was, as Richmond supposed, killed. The young man then endeavoured to "get out of the wilderness," and after proceeding about a mile, heard a rustling behind him, and, turning, discovered that he was pursued by the "identical" snake which he supposed he had killed a few hours before. This time he discharged his gun at the reptile and blew his head entirely off. Journeying onward, his endeavours to extricate himself from the woods were unavailing, and when night fell he again "slept out." An early hour in the morning he was awakened by the growl of a bear. Arousing himself he fired, and killed the monster at the first fire. The firing of his gun led to his discovery by some trappers, who kindly cared for him, and after providing refreshments directed him on his journey. —(Canada Gazette.)

IN THE LIBRARY OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF WASHINGTON there are upwards of 3000 volumes of American, English, French, Spanish, and Chinese newspapers, all complete and well bound. There is a complete set of the leading American democratic papers from 1808 to the present time.

THE CONFLICT IN AMERICA.

We make the following extracts from a letter of the special correspondent of the *Times*, which is dated September 2, and has just appeared:—

MOVEMENTS ON THE POTOMAC—SENTRY-STALKING.

On this side nothing will be done for three or four weeks to come. General McClellan is at present incapacitated by a strain received when out riding, a consequence of the constant personal supervision and inspection by which he stimulated so largely the progress of the army, officers and men, towards efficiency. But the machine is fairly moving and in working order, and by the time the season is favourable and other combinations are ready for execution, the army will justify the expectations which are entertained of it, and will deserve some of the eulogies passed on it by anticipation. Never, perhaps, has a finer body of men in all respects of *physique* been assembled by any Power in the world, and there is no reason why their *morale* should not be improved so as to equal that of the best troops in Europe. The skirmishes and petty guerrilla which are going on all over the debatable lands between the North and South possess no interest except in so much as they furnish paragraphs and good "headings" for the newspapers. As a specimen, take one. A Captain Shutte goes out with fourteen men of his regiment to watch a ford of the Gauley River, near Summersville, in Western Virginia. They march boldly eight miles beyond the ford, and are attacked by men in ambuscade; the Captain falls, shot through the bowels, and is left, mortally wounded, to die; four of his men are killed on the spot, and six are wounded. Now comes the remarkable fact. There were, it will be seen, but four men left untouched. These, however, "drove off" the rebels, and then retreated, leaving their Captain, at his own request, but bringing in with them the six wounded men who remained of the party. There are such ample details of these affairs in the American journals that I shall not in future allude to them, having expressed the opinion, which must be that of all military men, that these scouting parties and ambuscades and sentry-stalking turn the art of war into the art of individual murder.

THE EXPEDITION TO CAPE HATTERAS.—NEW PHASE OF THE REBEL QUESTION.

The news from Cape Hatteras which was received here yesterday caused great exultation. It is described, of course, in the local papers as a "grand battle." It is certainly a great success, and it has been achieved so easily that the original design of the expedition has been abandoned, and instead of blocking up the entrance and destroying the passages, General Butler and Commodore Stringham arrived at the much more sound conclusion to occupy the works which they found ready built to their hands, which course must prove of the most serious inconvenience to the enemy, and a terror and dismay to North Carolina. I doubt not the influence of this coup will be felt at Richmond and Manassas, and it may probably induce the Confederates to risk an attack on Washington, or a march into Maryland. It must certainly lead to a diffusion of part of their forces to watch the rivers and cities of North Carolina. It is very doubtful whether the President or the politicians of the extreme Republican party will approve the capitulation, inasmuch as the officers and men surrendered on condition that they were "to be treated as prisoners of war." *Ergo*, they are not rebels or to be treated as rebels. Again, and perhaps more important, the articles of capitulation are signed by "S. Barron, flag officer, U.S. Navy, commanding naval forces, Virginia and North Carolina," although General Butler in his report observes he was determined "not even to give an official title to the officer in command of the rebels"! Strange, indeed! In that same document, and immediately before that very statement, there is not only the articles of capitulation ensuring for officers and men the treatment due—not to "rebels," but—to "prisoners of war"; but after the words "Benj. F. Butler, Major-General U.S.A., commanding," comes the style and title of Flag-officer Barron, of U.S. Navy.

This matter is of greater consequence than may be supposed. It is not a mere verbal criticism. Hitherto the authorities at Washington have resisted all entreaties and arguments to negotiate for an exchange of prisoners with the Confederates, and have preferred to let their officers remain in captivity rather than make such an admission of equality and independence as would be implied by an exchange, for which, indeed, they had scarcely any materials. The capture of these officers and men will nearly give them an equivalent, and it is probable the wishes of the officers of the regular army and others will be in some sort attended to. Indeed, unless the act of General Butler, at once kind and judicious, be repudiated, it is not easy to see now on what principle the Government can justify the refusal to treat for an exchange of prisoners. It is plain they cannot affect on all occasions to consider the enemy as rebels, and to treat them as such even when in their power. The Confederate leaders have already shown that they will not permit any approaches to be made to them unless in such a form as to imply their independence as belligerents, and they refused to comply with the demands for Colonel Cameron's body because it was not made officially. The terms of the surrender at the Hatteras Forts will make persistence in the determination to deal with the Confederates as rebels and pirates very like affectation. "Flag-officer Barron" can scarcely be treated as a pirate captain of a pirate navy, nor the officers "commanding the 7th Light Infantry North Carolina Volunteers" as rebels.

THE LIBERATION OF THE SLAVES.—GENERAL FREMONT'S PROCLAMATION.

The real force of the Republican party is now to be tested, for the proclamation of General Fremont is really bringing the issue to that which I, for one, believed it must come if the war went on—a war of abolition—a fight between the Northern Abolitionists and the Southern Slaveholders. How many in the North will stand by and see the fight out? None will do so in the South, be assured of that. Hitherto the South has been clad in impenetrable armour. There has been a coat of steel thrown around the peculiar institution which it was impossible to pierce. The attempts to reach the slaves as a mass have all failed—the wedge inserted by the Federalists at Manassas was bent and broken. But General Fremont is working at the soft places; he is getting his knife in between the chinks of the plate mail, and the very vitals tremble. By way of comment on this act of the Commander of the Federalists in the Mississippi Valley, the authorities in Washington have resolved to seize and imprison any black or coloured person whom they find in uniform or wearing soldiers' clothes. There are hundreds of servants of the race in attendance on the camps who attire themselves in east-off uniforms in their harmless vanity, and henceforth they will be arrested. General Fremont's bold proclamation is by no means in accordance with Mr. Secretary Cameron's instructions to General Butler for his guidance in dealing with runaway negroes, or "contraband," as they were called at Fort Monroe. As the *Savannah Republican* at least affords proof that there exists a desire in the South among some people to make slaves of the Federalist prisoners, it may be imagined what the nature of the contest will be if the truculents on both sides have their way. The paper alluded to recommends the Confederate Government to hire out "the Yankee" prisoners, and the writer states he knows a rice-planter who wants two hundred of them to work on his dams; he wishes to find out if the North is right in saying that the work can be done by white labour.

THE MISSISSIPPI EXPEDITION.—CAPTAIN FOOTE.

The Mississippi expeditionary force will be ready by the end of this month, and must produce the most important result in the course of this war if it be not destroyed. General Pillow on one side and General Prentiss on the other have gone forth into the outer darkness with large armies, and are fighting, perhaps, tremendous battles, but we know nothing at all of their movements here.

The appointment of Captain Foote to the command of the steam and gun boat flotillas on, or to be on, the Western rivers is a proof of the desire of the Government to put forth its greatest power and resources in that direction. He is an able and experienced seaman, well known to many of our officers, who have met him on the coast of Africa or in the Chinese Seas, and he is at once cautious and bold. So far as I can judge, he does not apprehend much damage from the rifleman on the banks or sharpshooters concealed in the dense forests which line both sides of the rivers for much of their course. His vessels will be protected by mantlets, and he trusts to shell and shrapnel to clear his front and flanks, even if the columns moving down on shore are not sufficient to prevent in all cases parties of the enemy creeping in between the roads and the banks to annoy him.

ILLNESS OF MR. DAVIS.—SOUTHERN LEADERS.

Mr. Davis is said to be suffering from fever at Richmond. I would like to know any one who is not suffering from fever in Washington! Nature has made this a lovely country, but she has also established a fine fever system, and it cannot be enjoyed without quinine. When last I saw Mr. Davis he was recovering from an attack of *tiedouleur*, to which he is subject, and its agonies have been so great that he has lost the sight of one eye, I was assured, in consequence. He is a slight, spare man, who did not appear to me capable of resisting violent disease. There are those who think the Southern Confederacy depends on his life alone. They might have been right at one time. I do not think they are so at present, for although Mr. Toombs, Mr. Benjamin, or any other civilian might be unable to take his place, the military leaders would afford ample materials for such a President as the South desires at present. There is a report that Mr. (John) Slidell, of New Orleans, is about going as a commissioner to Europe. How he is to get there is not so obvious, for the Government would give a good deal to seize upon such an able and dangerous man.

EQUIPMENTS OF THE FEDERAL TROOPS.

Washington is very tranquil. Now and then regiments march through and proceed out to camp, and vast trains of horses, mules, and waggons attest the activity of Quartermaster-General Meigs. All the hills on both sides of the Potomac are posted with tents—camps gleam out through the forests, and in highways and byways, in morning and evening rides one meets commissariat-trains, and sees in every field squads of soldiers drilling. I went out to see the 18th Massachusetts the other day, and found them pitching their tents with all the rawness of new hands; but their equipments were excellent, the transport magnificent, and the men equal in youth, health, stature, and bulk to any regiment (not picked like the Guards) in our service. The troops we have here now are not only better behaved, but they are not allowed to behave badly, at least in the city; and they must be content with rural joys and recreations.

THE FOREIGN ELEMENT IN THE ARMIES.—IRISHMEN NORTH AND SOUTH.

There are now men of a different stamp flocking to the field. As the pressure creeps upward the recruits will come from the higher levels. Tens of thousands of respectable Germans and Irish are joining the native-born Americans—formerly the Americans joined them—and exhibit zeal not less than that which their countrymen in the South show for the Confederate States. The *New Orleans Delta* states that the vast majority—I think three-fourths or more—of the regiments (Secessionist) from that city are Irish. If they and the New York Hibernians can get a fair "vacancy" at each other there will be the materials for a new epic at once. In the district of Columbia recruiting does not prosper. I fear there is a good deal of "sichesh" in the population, and the only considerable number of men enlisted are of the two foreign stocks who have done so much of the fighting for the United States. As a reward for his steadfastness, and acknowledgment of his military merit, the Government have made Brigadier Blenker a Major-General. The Irish are delighted with the appointment of their old favourite, General Shields. Scotland, I believe, may claim McClellan and McDowell as descendants of her children. England can claim many of the best by a similar process of descent.

THE CAPTURE OF FORT HATTERAS.

The *New York Times* of the 2nd inst. gives the following account of the capture of Forts Hatteras and Clark:—

As we anticipated, the destination of the expedition was Hatteras inlet, which has for some time been infested by a number of pirates, who have run out and whenever they saw fit with the utmost impunity. The rebels have also recently erected there two forts—one called Fort Hatteras, and the other Fort Clark, mounting about thirty guns, and occupied by some 600 or 700 men. The expedition left Fortress Monroe on Monday last, and made their rendezvous off the inlet on Tuesday afternoon, when preparations were immediately made for landing troops on Wednesday morning. The number landed was about 300, the gun-boats meantime sweeping the beach with shell, to prevent any interference on the part of the rebels. The batteries were then engaged by the *Wabash*, *Minnesota*, and the *Cumberland*, with the greatest effect, and during the day were partially silenced, the troops on shore remaining in readiness to lend their aid at the proper moment. On Thursday morning the bombardment was recommenced, the ships having taken up new positions, and such was the terrible effect of their fire that the rebel commanders were speedily driven to capitulation, when our force on shore marched into the forts and took possession. The surrender was absolute and unconditional, General Butler refusing to treat on any other terms. Upwards of 600 prisoners were taken, including Commodore Barron, commanding the rebel naval forces in Virginia and North Carolina, and assistant-secretary of the Confederate navy, and several colonels, captains, and officers of lesser note. The rebel loss in killed is unknown, as they are said to have carried away a number of bodies. Two were found inside the forts. Eleven of their wounded were brought away with the other prisoners, who will soon reach this port on board the *Minnesota*. On our side there appears not to have been a single man killed or wounded. Three vessels were captured, one of which was loaded with cotton ready to run the blockade, and a number of important documents were found, which will be of great service to the Government in determining who are and who have been its enemies. On the whole, the expedition may be regarded as eminently brilliant and successful. The facility with which the rebel privateers have been enabled to overhaul and capture so many Northern vessels is explained by one of the documents captured at Hatteras. It is a copy of a letter from Robert G. Scott, late American Consul at Rio Janeiro, giving a list of all the vessels leaving, or to leave that port within a month, with a full description of their cargoes and destination. The privateer thus knew precisely when and where to look for the vessels, and six of those named in the list have been captured.

GENERAL FREMONT'S PROCLAMATION.

The following is the text of the important proclamation published by General Fremont in Missouri:—

Head-quarters of the Western Department, St. Louis, Aug. 31. Circumstances, in my judgment of sufficient urgency, render it necessary that the commanding General of this department should assume the administrative powers of the State. Its disorganised condition, the helplessness of the civil authority, the total insecurity of life, and the devastation of property by bands of murderers and marauders, who infest nearly every county in the State, and avail themselves of the public misfortunes and the vicinity of a hostile force to gratify private and neighbourhood vengeance, and who find an enemy wherever they find plunder, finally demand the severest measures to repress the daily increasing crimes and outrages which are driving off the inhabitants and ruining the State. In this condition the public safety and the success of our arms require unity of purpose, without let or hindrance, to the prompt administration of affairs.

In order, therefore, to suppress disorders, to maintain, as far as now practicable, the public peace, and to give security and protection to the persons and property of loyal citizens, I do hereby extend and declare established martial law throughout the State of Missouri. The lines of the army of occupation in this State are, for the present, declared to extend from Leavenworth, by way of the posts of Jefferson City, Rolla, and Ironton, to Cape Girardeau, on the Mississippi River.

All persons who shall be taken with arms in their hands within these lines shall be tried by court-martial, and, if found guilty, will be shot. The property, real and personal, of all persons in the State of Missouri who shall take up arms against the United States, or who shall be directly proven to have taken active part with their enemies in the field, is declared to be confiscated to the public use, and their slaves, if any they have, are hereby declared free men.

All persons who shall be proven to have destroyed, after the publication

of this order, railroad tracks, bridges, or telegraphs, shall suffer the extreme penalty of the law.

All persons engaged in treasonable correspondence, in giving or procuring aid to the enemies of the United States, in disturbing the public tranquillity by creating or circulating false reports or incendiary documents, are, in their own interest, warned that they are exposing themselves.

All persons who have been led away from their allegiance are required to return to their homes forthwith. Any such absence, without sufficient cause, will be held as presumptive evidence against them.

The object of this declaration is to place in the hands of the military authorities the power to give instantaneous effect to existing laws, and to supply such deficiencies as the conditions of war demand. But it is not intended to suspend the ordinary tribunals of the country, where the law will be administered by the civil officers in the usual manner, and with their customary authority while the same can be peaceably exercised.

The commanding General will labour vigilantly for the public welfare, and in his efforts for their safety hopes to obtain not only the acquiescence, but the active support, of the people of the country.

J. C. FREMONT, Major-General Commanding.

THE SOUTHERN CONFEDERACY.

The following is an extract of a letter received from a Southern source:—

The Confederate Government has determined not to permit the removal of a bale of cotton, or a hoghead of tobacco, or tierce of rice from the plantations of the Confederate States until the blockade of the ports thereof is raised. The planters of the South will probably place at the disposal of the Confederate Government cotton, tobacco, &c., to the value of \$50,000,000 sterling, and take the bonds of the Confederate States at par as an advance thereon. East Tennessee is now ardently co-operating with the Confederates, Knoxville, its capital, turning out some fine battalions of cavalry.

PRESIDENT LINCOLN.

One hears very little of the President, but in reality he is very active, and naturally takes a deep interest in the work of all the departments. He moves about dressed in a plain gray shooting jacket and suit, without any attendant, from one Minister to another, now visiting Captain Dahlgren at the Navy-yard, then dropping in on General Scott, or calling at General McClellan's, taking a constant but not obtrusive share in all the various business on hand from day to day.

GARIBALDI.

It appears to be quite true that a command—if not the *chief* command—in the Federal army in America has been offered to Garibaldi. The American Minister at Brussels paid a visit to the General at Caprera, for the purpose of conveying President Lincoln's offer; but it is now certain that his mission was unsuccessful, the Italian hero preferring to reserve himself for whatever contingencies may arise in his own country. This result must be satisfactory to all the admirers of Garibaldi, for it would have been sad to see one who has played so distinguished a part in the liberation of Italy degrade himself to the condition of a mercenary soldier, even in a cause which he might deem just and holy. There is, thus, then, an end of a transaction which would have been unworthy alike of the hired and the hirers.

On the occasion of the late fête at Naples in celebration of the anniversary of Garibaldi's entry into that city, the following address—which must have been far more pleasing to him than the seemingly flattering offer of the American Government—was sent to the General by the Neapolitans:—

THE PEOPLE OF NAPLES TO THEIR GARIBALDI.

Every day, every hour, every moment, we bless thee, dear Joseph, our father; you reign in our hearts; our children have learned thy name and mingle it with their prayers. You are the father of the people. Quite alone, without regarding weariness or difficulties, without thinking of any interest of your own, you have shed for us your generous blood. Our hope in thee is eternal, as is our gratitude, and will be handed down from sire to son till the end of time. May the breezes bear to Caprera the echo of our acclamation, "Viva Garibaldi!"

It may not be uninteresting to our readers to know that there has been formed in England, with its head-quarters in London, an association under the title of the "Garibaldi United Italy Committee," for the purpose of keeping the public attention alive to Italian affairs, well informed as to the progress of the national movement in Italy, and of aiding of by moral support in the ultimate attainment of that perfect unity of the Italian people which Garibaldi and all true friends of Italy have so much at heart. The committee is composed of gentlemen of whose discretion and prudence there can be as little doubt as of their earnestness in the cause of freedom. The names of Mr. W. H. Ashurst, the treasurer, of Mr. Coningham M.P., Mr. Stansfeld, M.P., Mr. Cranford, M.P., and Mr. P. A. Taylor, are sufficient to satisfy all Englishmen interested in the cause of Italian unity and freedom—and who among us is not interested in that cause?—that the association is deserving of public confidence and support.

ITALY AND THE POPEDOM.—According to the *Independence* the Italian Government is about to send a final proposal to the Court of Rome, with a view to the settlement of the difficulty between the Pontiff and Italy. While asking from the Pope the abdication of his temporal power, every possible security is offered necessary to the independence of the Church and the spiritual authority of the head of Catholicity, who will have complete freedom in all arrangements relating to religion, and a personal position surrounded by all the splendour and security which the Catholic world require for their Pontiff. Other advantages are also offered, but it is thought that, like former proposals, this also will be rejected.

BRITISH TRADE WITH FRANCE.—The *Moniteur* of the 14th publishes an Imperial decree opening the custom-house of Dieppe for the importation of cotton yarn of and above number 143, and for long stapled and twisted woollen yarn. The ports of Marseilles, Bordeaux, Nantes, Rouen, and Havre, and the custom-houses of Lille, Mulhouse, and Lyons, are opened under the same regulation as the custom-house of Paris, for the direct importation and clearing of English and Belgian textures which pay duty ad valorem. The other ports of France and the other custom-houses on the Belgian frontier, which are already open for the transit of unprohibited goods, may also in future receive thin textures of English and Belgian manufacture, but only for transit. The payment of the import duties on Belgian and English textures imported into Algeria can only be effected at the port of Algiers.

THE DRAMA AT THE ANTIPODES.—The stage seems to be making progress in Australia in addition to the legitimate drama. In this far-distant province of Great Britain a number of members of the House of Legislation, answering to the English House of Commons, have given an amateur performance of "The Merchant of Venice." The parts of Portia, Jessica, and Nerissa were filled by professional ladies. In addition to the play a prologue was delivered by the late Attorney-General of the colony; and a very amusing epilogue was spoken by Mr. Pyke, a member of the Legislative Assembly. The donning of the sock and buskin by these lively M.L.'s drew one of the most crowded houses which has been witnessed within the walls of the Theatre Royal, although the prices were raised some fifty per cent. The object of this performance was to aid a subscription which had been commenced in Melbourne for the purpose of raising a monument to the memory of Shakespeare in that city—a good example.

A COMPOSER AT COVENTRY.—A Dresden journal states that previously to the late musical festival at Weimar, the Grand Duke endeavoured to restore Richard Wagner to favour at the Court of Saxony. The Grand Duke wished to confer on the maestro the Order of the Falcon; but before doing so, he caused inquiries to be made at Dresden whether that distinction would be well received there. The Duke received an answer to the effect that if Wagner received the decoration, twelve officers of the Saxon army would immediately send back theirs. In consequence, no favour was conferred on the composer by the Grand Duke.

LA GLOIRE.—Accounts from Toulon state that the steel-cased steam-frigate Gloire sailed thence on Wednesday week to make a second trial with the newly-invented cannon, called "the mysterious cannon," from the secrecy observed with respect to its construction. While in port the cannon remains enveloped in a covering which is sealed with an official seal not to be broken until the ship is at sea.

THE VINTAGE IN FRANCE.—The *Salut Public* of Lyons says:—"The vintage has commenced on several points in the environs of this city. The wine promises to be of excellent quality, and the fermentation takes place rapidly. It is estimated that the rain which has fallen within the last few days will increase the quantity of wine by at least one-fourth." Similar satisfactory accounts reach us from other wine-growing districts of France, and, generally, a very productive vintage is anticipated.

NEW UNIFORMS OF THE SWISS ARMY.

NOTWITHSTANDING the application made by the representatives of the American forces, it is now pretty well understood that Garibaldi sees too much work waiting for him in Italy to accept the flattering offer of giving him the sole command of the Federal army, with the opportunity of slave emancipation. It is currently reported, however, that the Northern troops will be reinforced by Swiss regiments who are not unwilling to be hired for the support of the Federal cause in America. Our Engraving represents the new uniforms which have lately been introduced into the Swiss army, some of them being desirable and important modifications of the former costumes of the soldiers. The tunic has generally replaced the ancient coat of the carabineers and the infantry, although the regulation capote has been preserved as an undress uniform. The old white cartridge-box and belt has been displaced by a black belt, supporting the sabre, the bayonet-sheath, and cartridge-pouch. Improved arms have been given to all the infantry regiments, and a light head-covering has been substituted for the heavy shako formerly worn.

The accompanying illustrations, which are taken from sketches by an officer in the Swiss army represent most of the changes which have been effected for the comfort and efficiency of the troops.

A NEAPOLITAN TRAITOR.

DURING the reign of King Ferdinand of Naples a certain M. Toffano played the part of a patriot of the purest water. He was a lawyer, and he defended, gratuitously, those unhappy beings who fell into the clutches of Bomba the First charged with political crimes—a class unluckily too numerous—and who experienced at the hands of the Royal tyrant neither ruth nor justice. Documents discovered in the archives of Naples now prove that the seeming patriot Toffano was no other than a spy in disguise. This discovery has caused considerable excitement in Italy, and the details of the affair are

acts of the Neapolitan refugees are recorded with great minuteness, and that Toffano did not even spare his most devoted friends, all of them being, as I am told, pitilessly denounced. In the last affair of M. Mazzini at Genoa M. Toffano believed that it was his interest to undertake the defence of the accused Republicans; but fearing that his patrons at Naples would be shocked at seeing him figure among the advocates of such people, and that they would stop his pecuniary supplies, he wrote to the King to say that he had only undertaken the defence of the accomplices of Pisacane to put himself on good terms with the Mazzinians, and to obtain their confidence. It is hardly necessary to say that all the unfortunate men defended by M. Toffano were condemned to the galleys. It is alleged that M. Toffano pretends that he is able to justify himself; his object was, he states, to lead Ferdinand II into error by sending him false news. The Minister of Justice has ordered an investigation, and everybody is waiting with impatience for the report which will be published on the subject. M. Toffano being a deputy, the affair must be cleared up before the next meeting of Parliament.

THE CAMP AT CHALONS.

THE organisation of a complete military camp in time of peace is one of the means by which an army, whether of regular troops or of volunteers, may be kept in readiness for active service; and it has the further advantage in the case of a large body of regular soldiers that they are further removed from the great populous centres, where very frequently neither the comfort nor the morality of the neighbourhood is improved by their too close proximity.

To find employment for the army in times when they were not required for fighting has in France always been a problem not easily, and seldom successfully, solved; indeed, it may be seen by even a cursory glance at French history that a large



FUSILIER.

INFANTRY OFFICER IN FULL AND UNDRESS UNIFORM.

General Cialdini to tell him what he had found. The General immediately sent Count Borromeo to the room to bring the letters to him; a notary was summoned to the Palace, copies were made of the documents, and the originals were forthwith dispatched to Turin. The dismissal of M. Toffano was the result. As usual in such cases, M. Toffano concluded all his letters with a recommendation that they should be destroyed, but Ferdinand II. was too cunning a man to do that. I am assured that in these communications all the



RIFLEMAN.



DRUM MAJOR.

GUIDE.

FUSILIER.



CARBINEER.

given in the following letter from Naples, dated the 7th inst.:-

"Notwithstanding the interest excited by the national fête in honour of the hero of Calatafimi, the famous affair of M. Taffano is not yet forgotten. And no wonder, when one reflects that scarcely a fortnight back the man was President of the First Criminal Tribunal of the Southern Provinces, and yet that it is now certain that from 1850 he was a police spy of Ferdinand II. It may be said that the chance which led to the discovery of his letters was almost providential, for under the Government of M. Nigra the archives were searched without anything being discovered, except the famous epistle of Don Liborio Romano. One of the most distinguished men of Naples having been charged by Baron Ricasoli to write the history of the last Bourbons, naturally received authorisation to make any searches he pleased in the archives of the ex-kingdom. A fortnight back he put his hand on a dusty parcel beneath a quantity of old papers thrown pellmell into a corner of the room. In that parcel were a numerous collection of papers, dated from 1850 to 1858. He examined the latter, and, to his astonishment, found that they were letters from M. Toffano to the King! These letters were classed according to their dates, and, as I am assured, were marked with letters in red ink, which perhaps referred to some register kept by the King. The person who made this unexpected discovery, having recovered somewhat from his astonishment, closed the door of the room and hastened to



ARTILLERY-MAN.

FUSILIER

DRAGOON

COLONEL.

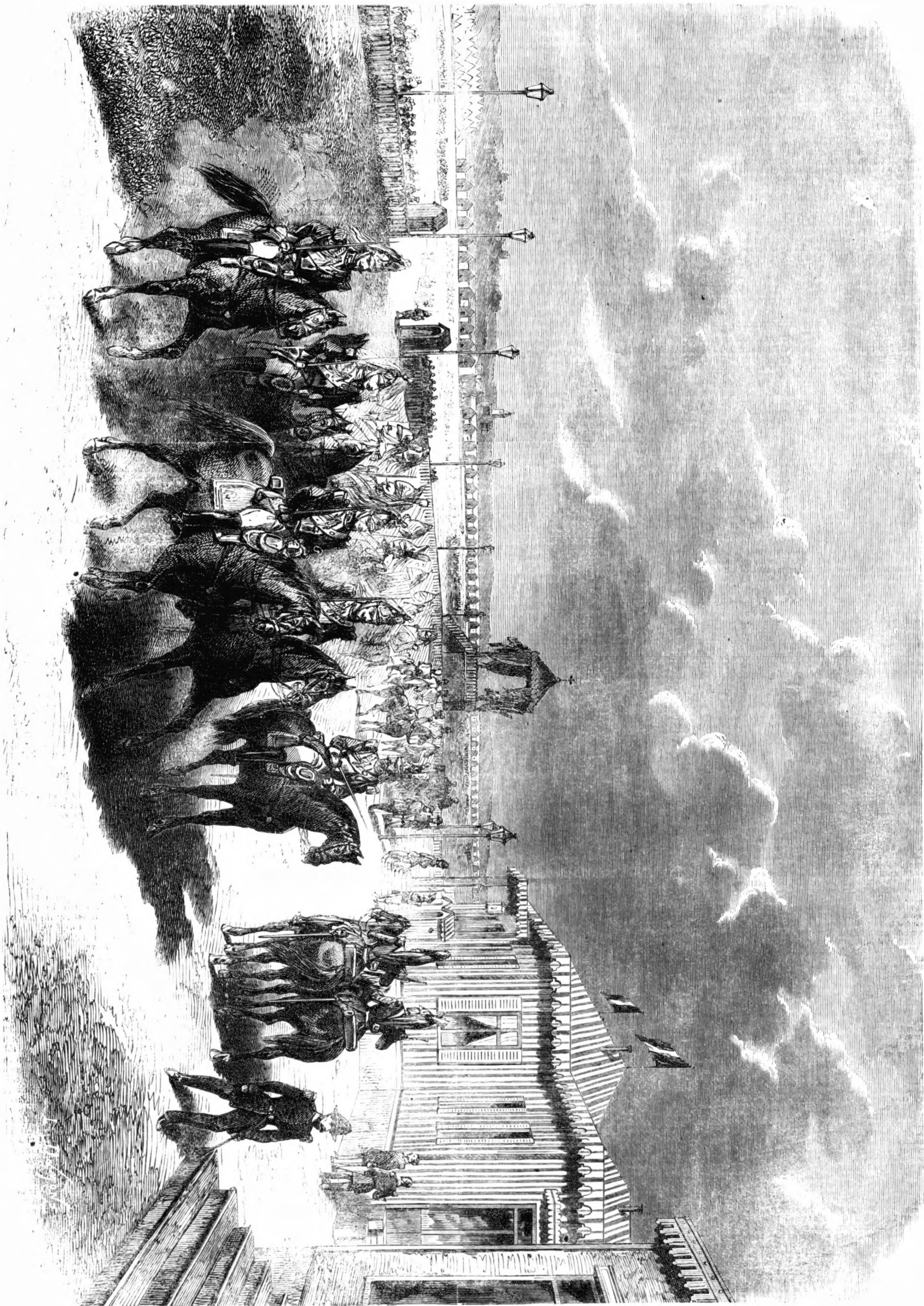
ARTILLERY OFFICER

standing army not safely disposed of in time of comparative tranquillity has been the rock upon which Governments have split more than once. It is obvious that this reflection has occurred to the present Emperor, and its result has been the frequent change of locality to which the troops returning from abroad have been destined, while at the same time the establishment of the camp at Chalons has afforded an opportunity of concentrating a large body of from 200,000 to more than 300,000 men, and at the same time in keeping them engaged in the practice of military operations, as well as providing fêtes and amusements for the men and the various guests who go to visit the camp.

As a model for a standing camp, that of Chalons leaves nothing to desire. Every contrivance has been adopted to facilitate access to that out-of-the-way place, and to provide for the health, comfort, and amusement of the soldier. Up to the time the camp was first established, in 1857, the hamlet of Mourmelon was only connected by a country road with Chalons, while the old Roman road, probably unrepaid since the conquerors of the world left it, served as a means of communication with Rheims. Now two excellent chaussées have been constructed, mostly by the labour of the soldiers in camp, besides which a branch railway from Chalons penetrates into all parts of the camp, so that all the matériel and stores find an easy way to the very place of their destination.

Our Engraving represents the view of the camp from a spot near the Emperor's pavilion.

THE CAMP AT CHALONS—THE EMPEROR'S PAVILION.



IRELAND.

TRADE IN DUBLIN.—The fashionable season may be said to have terminated here with the departure of the Prince and the mayoralty ball. Such families as remained in town for these events have departed, and trade has consequently become slack again. Through the entire summer, indeed, it was inactive—not more than half the business of former years being done. The shopkeepers of every class are grumbling. When it was known that the Queen would pass through Dublin they anticipated a stir in trade, believing that a drawing-room was one of the items in her Majesty's programme. A petition soliciting the Queen to hold one was even mooted; but, this hope having failed them, they must now only await with patience the business that regularly sets in with the approach of the winter months. It is well, under these circumstances, that the provinces continue so prosperous.

RECRUITING IN IRELAND FOR AMERICA.—The *Dublin Evening Post* asserts that there are at present in Ireland agents from America who are endeavouring to enlist men for the Federal service, and adds:—"How far this may be in consonance with international law we shall not now undertake to determine; but it is certain that there are many persons belonging to the disbanded Irish militia regiments not at present employed who, we believe, would not object to any tempting offers that might be made them in order to secure their assistance for the Government of the Union in the deadly struggle which it is now waging with the Southern Confederacy."

THE CROPS.—More than usual interest is now attached to the reports that arrive from the provinces. This is owing to the contradictory opinions prevalent about the crops. One authority has it that they will not yield so high an average as those of former years; another takes a somewhat less unfavourable view of them; a third, and probably the best judge of the three, anticipates a good harvest, but laments that the potato crop is greatly injured. On investigating the agricultural reports, in fact, the latter of these opinions becomes impressed on the mind. That the potato crop is seriously damaged no one can doubt. From every part of the country the same statement about it is received; but relative to the green crops no such assertions can be made. If their lighness is rumoured in one quarter, from another come reports of their healthy, luxuriant character. It is almost beyond question, therefore, that the green crops will be up to the average yield, if not above it.

SCOTLAND.

THE MYSTERIOUS AFFAIR NEAR MOTHERWELL.—The investigation into the circumstances connected with the disappearance of Mr. W. G. Simpson, mentioned in our last Number, leads to the belief that the gentleman in question has not sustained any foul play, but has had reason to leave that part of the country. Statements have been made that his affairs had become embarrassed, and that the occurrence may thus be accounted for. The inquiry into the case is still going on.

THE WHALE-FISHING.—By intelligence received from the Dundee whaling fleet, it appears that the fishing has been remarkably successful, and that, if the ships and their cargoes all arrive safely, this will be the most productive season the Dundee whale ships have ever had.

THE SCOTCH VOLUNTEER CHALLENGE.—It is, we believe, suggested that the challenge match between Scotland and England, if accepted, should take place either at Edinburgh, during her Majesty's visit in October, or at Wimbledon in 1862. We believe it is not intended to make the prize one of pecuniary value, the honour of success in the contest being the only stake to be played for. The arrangements, so far as regards the side of the challengers, are left to Mr. Horatio Ross, and it is intended to ask Lord Dalhousie to be the Scotch umpire. Some objection has been stated that the challenge has not received the necessary publicity south of the Tweed; but we believe that every step will be taken to make it widely known there, and we have no doubt that the attention of the best shots of the country will be drawn to it. We believe, also, that an international match, to take place next year, open to all nations, is suggested.—*Edinburgh Courier*.

THE HARVEST.—The weather has been very variable during the past week. In some districts it has been very favourable indeed for harvest operations, but generally there have been showers, high winds, and in some places violent storms. In these circumstances the progress made with cutting and leading the crops has been very irregular; but, notwithstanding all disadvantages, considerable quantities of the cereals have been housed, though it is equally true that no small portion still remains in the fields. The yield would generally be fair, especially of oats and barley, could it be satisfactorily housed. As regards the potatoes, there seems no reason to doubt that a large portion of the crop will be lost. The disease appears to spread everywhere, and some farmers are even already carting the tubers in large quantities to the starch mills. Turnips, also, are a faulty crop, the malformation called "finger and toe" being very prevalent. Dry weather is much wanted in Scotland.

THE PROVINCES.

A YOUNG WOMAN SHOT BY A BOY.—On Sunday afternoon an extraordinary homicide was committed by a lad only twelve years of age, named John Little, in the service of a farmer living at Marwood, near Darlington. He had had some words with the housekeeper, and, being in an angry humour, deliberately levelled a gun at her and shot her dead.

THE LATE ALLEGED FRAUDS ON SOMERSET FARMERS.—At the Taunton Guildhall, on Saturday, John Windset, a cattle-saler, of London, appeared to answer a charge of having attempted to defraud several farmers of various sums, amounting altogether to upwards of £1200, when it was stated that the prisoner had satisfied in full all that had any claim upon him, and that, consequently, no further evidence against him would be offered. The prisoner was accordingly released from custody.

A CLERICAL MAGISTRATE AND HIS COLLEAGUES.—At the Spittlegate Petty Sessions, held last week, the Rev. Ralph Lionel Tollemache, who was some weeks since placed in "Coventry" by his brother magistrates, took his seat on the bench during the hearing of a case, and, after delivering judgment, all the other magistrates retired to their private room. Shortly afterwards the clerk returned, and, politely addressing the rev. gentleman, said, "The magistrates wished to see Mr. Tollemache in their private room." Mr. Tollemache replied he had nothing to say to them. After an interval of about half an hour the justices re-entered the room, and the chairman, addressing Mr. Tollemache, said, "Since you have declined to meet the magistrates in a private room, we feel compelled to state publicly what we should have said privately—that is, the Bench feel that they would not be justified in further stopping public business on your account, and therefore, on public grounds alone, we are determined to proceed. At the same time we state that our opinion of your unfitness to occupy a seat on the bench remains unaltered." Mr. Tollemache rose to reply, but the chairman interrupted him by saying, "The magistrates would admit of no discussion there."—*Nottingham Journal*.

REDUCTION OF WAGES IN LANCASHIRE.—The cotton-spinners of Blackburn having decided to reduce the wages of their workpeople, as well as to work short time, the matter was discussed at a large meeting of delegates of the Associated Operative Spinners of Lancashire and the adjoining counties held in Manchester on Sunday. A resolution was adopted to the effect that the employers be earnestly and respectfully requested to reconsider their decision, "because, while all admit that the present scarcity of cotton affords a well-grounded reason for the diminution of its consumption and of the production of yarns and goods by running short time, this meeting of delegates cannot understand how a reduction of wages can be the means of preventing an adequate supply of the raw material, or of finding a profitable market for yarns, &c."

RIOT AT ASTON PARK.—A fearful riot took place on Monday night on the occasion of Blonidin's second performance on the rope in Aston Park, near Birmingham. The grounds were thronged at an early hour of the day with visitors, numbering from 15,000 to 20,000 persons, chiefly of the respectable classes, and the inclosure was kept by about a dozen policemen, whose services had been granted for the occasion by the watch committee. The greatest order prevailed within the park, but as it grew dusk there was a tremendous crush outside the entrance. A large mob of roughs attempted to force their way through the turnstiles, and, being repulsed by the police, they broke down the palings and fences and set fire to them. Arming themselves with sticks and stones, they then rushed upon the policemen, and violently assaulted them. Several of the constables were frightfully cut about the head and face; and a horse, worth about £35, which one of the policemen rode, had one of its legs broken by a large stone, and was obliged to be shot. In the meantime Inspector Wilson, the officer in charge, dispatched a message into the town for reinforcements; and Mr. Superintendent Leggett at once sent two divisions to the scene of riot, when seven of the ringleaders were taken into custody. Police-constables Kinneary and Winkett, of the borough police, were dangerously hurt, and two of the Warwick county constabulary were also seriously injured.

FOR INTELLIGENCE.—Sussex: Picking is in full operation, but the crop of hops is miserably short generally—much shorter than was expected a week or two since. Worcester: The *Worcester Herald* says that the planters complain much of the hops coming down lighter than was expected; and the general opinion now is that the present estimate of the duty, £18,000, will not be really paid. Nothing doing in old hops. Farnham, Aiton, and country districts, Sept. 14: The wet and windy weather of the last few days has retarded the hop-picking. The very worst grounds yield pretty well up to the previous calculations, but the middling and bad ones fall very short. The quality up to this time is very good, but they are likely soon to lose colour. Duty of the district about £7600.—*South-Eastern Gazette*.

THE RECESS SPEECHES.

THE Parliamentary recess is at last beginning to produce its usual crop of speeches, and we have this week to record several of these performances.

First in order comes Mr. Newdegate, who, at an agricultural exhibition dinner at Sparkenhoe, discoursed to the farmers and squires of Leicestershire on things in general, and on family influence, the Feast of Tabernacles, the associations of Bosworth, and the "cheerful cry of the merry bounds," in particular.

Next we have Mr. Henley in Oxfordshire, talking in his usual sensible way of the honour of representing the people of England in Parliament, of the value and importance of agricultural associations, and of the propriety of keeping up that specially English institution—a good dinner. On this last point, we doubt not, even the most extreme Radical will be as conservative as the right hon. gentleman himself.

On the subject of education the Earl of Devon and Sir John Colebridge dilated at some length at the jubilee of the National Education Society, at Exeter, on Friday week. Whatever differences of opinion may exist as to the particular machinery to be employed, there can be none on this point—that whoever aids in promoting the education of the people does good service to the country; and we therefore wish the National Education Society and all other associations of the like kind all success.

Mr. Craufurd, M.P. for the Ayr Burghs, met his constituents at Ayr last week. The principal theme of the hon. gentleman's speech was Parliamentary Reform, and why and wherefore a measure of that kind was not carried last Session; the principal cause being, as he believed, the apathy of the electors in England, and their disinclination to share the privilege of possessing the franchise with their less fortunate fellow-citizens. It will no doubt be satisfactory to Earl Russell to know that his Italian policy meets with the entire concurrence of the hon. member for the Ayr Burghs.

The learned and respected Lord St. Leonards, on occasion of 11th annual venison dinner at Kingston, took a review of affairs generally, at home and abroad; the harvest, the state of things in France, Italy, Austria, Hungary, and America, furnishing themes for comment. It is unnecessary for us to criticise his Lordship's remarks, his name being sufficient to guarantee that they were sensible, judicious, and kindly.

At the meeting of the North-west Bucks Agricultural Association on Wednesday, Sir H. Verney delivered a lengthened address on land-tenure, which, we doubt not, was interesting and instructive to his audience. But why was Mr. Disraeli absent from a meeting of Bucks farmers?

Next we have Colonel North at an agricultural meeting at Banbury defending the House of Commons from the charge of doing too much talk and too little work; and also accounting for our large warlike expenditure, which, he said, was all the fault of the Emperor of the French. Verily, the Emperor has much to answer for, if all the charges brought against him be true; and this one, at least, has considerable semblance of truth about it.

Lastly, Mr. Whalley has had a gathering of the Liverpool Orangemen at his country seat, and has talked to them about the Maynooth grant, and the necessity of keeping up the Orange organisation in the country; but, as Orangemen have hitherto generally meant religious discord, we humbly think the less we have of it the better.

BANQUET AT PERTH TO SIR HOPE GRANT.

THE freedom of the city of Perth was last week presented to Sir Hope Grant, who has distinguished himself both in India and in the late expedition to Peking, the capital of China. A public dinner was given to the gallant General on the occasion, and, in the course of his speech in acknowledging the toast of his health, he gave the following amusing illustrations of the style of warfare in China, of the effect produced by newspaper intelligence in that country, and of the terror inspired by a photographer and his apparatus at the signing of the treaty of peace. The gallant General said:—"In the last China campaign, amid all the horrors and dangers of war, there was much to interest and amuse. I assure you; and I cannot help remembering the day we landed at Peking. The country around was a large salt marsh, and before we were enabled to set foot on shore the tide had risen and covered the whole country round for miles with water. There was a raised causeway or road, which ran from the Taku Forts to Kohtung, and General de Montauban and myself determined to make for this position. There was a large Tartar cavalry picket on this road, but they seemed struck with surprise and terror at our amphibious appearance, and at two such fine armies marching up to their knees in water, with their trousers tucked up, carrying shoes and stockings in one hand, and in the other their weapons of destruction, and the Tartars never waited for an attack. Our first day's fight was upon Aug. 12—grape-shooting day; but we had, unhappily, another game to destroy. The Tartars were well liked; and in the house where Sankolsin, the famous Tartar General, had resided a despatch was found written to the Emperor, in which he said, 'English newspapers have been put into my hands, which I have had translated, and in them it is stated that the English mean to land at Peking and take our forts in reverse. We know very well this is not likely to be the case. No nation would ever be so foolish as to state publicly the tactics they intend to pursue. Besides which the country is quite impracticable, and I have troops all along the road which will soon annihilate them.' So, gentlemen, you see that the way in which we tried to forward the Tartar General had the effect of putting him off his guard, as he could not believe in the truthfulness of our public prints. A day was fixed for signing the treaty, and as I had been informed by Roman Catholic missionaries—who had heard it from Chinese converts, of whom there are a great number in that city—that infernal machines and guns were to be turned against us when we got into the intricacies of the town, I sent a large force to be prepared for any little *contretemps* we might meet with. Lord Elgin accordingly started at the hour appointed, and I accompanied him. We proceeded to the hall of audience, where we were received by Prince Kung and about 400 or 500 mandarins, dressed in splendid robes. The terror displayed in the Prince's countenance was truly amusing. His eyes kept turning about without moving his head, first towards Lord Elgin and then towards me, and he was as pale as death. The ceremony was just commencing, when Mr. Berto, a photographer who had accompanied me to China, being anxious to obtain a good view of the signing of the treaty, placed his large apparatus within twenty yards of Prince Kung, the large lens presented at his breast and at the other mandarins, who, poor fellows, were just as frightened at infernal machines as ourselves. They thought this was some terrible species of mortar with which we intended to blow them all into the next world, and their looks of consternation were truly amusing. The treaty, however, was soon signed, and we were bowed out much more pleasantly than we were bowed in."

DEATH OF EARL FORTESCUE.—The Right Hon. Earl Fortescue died at Exeter on Saturday, the 14th inst. The venerable nobleman, who was in the seventy-ninth year of his age, had been in a delicate state of health for some weeks past, but, being better, he went from London to Exeter on the Friday, accompanied by Mr. Potter, his medical man, on his way to Castle-hill (North Devon), his Lordship's family residence. The noble Lord slept at the house of Mr. H. Ford, the clerk of the peace for the county of Devon, on Friday night. On Saturday, however, alarming symptoms were visible, and his Lordship gradually sank, and died about four o'clock p.m.

LORD NELSON'S WATCH.—The Marchioness of Westminster has presented to the Commissioners of Greenwich Hospital the gold watch worn by Lord Nelson at the battle of Trafalgar, and which relic has been placed for exhibition in the Painted Hall, in a case containing the coat and waistcoat worn by the deceased hero in the same memorable engagement, and which were presented to the commissioners by his Royal Highness the Prince Consort. Among other recent additions to the Painted Hall is an excellent portrait, in oil painting, of the late Captain W. Peel, R.N., presented by the officers and other friends of the lamented deceased.

MORE TRAMWAYS.—Messrs. Mowlem, Burt, and Freeman have commenced laying down an iron tramway on the west side of the Blackfriars-road, which will be extended to the Elephant and Castle, Newington-butts, via the London-road. The novelty of the principle is that, instead of the tramway consisting of smooth iron plates, these are in blocks of cast-iron about eighteen inches square and four in thickness, the surface being chequered with small oblong blocks protruding, so as to give horses good footing when passing over the metal way, but not causing the slightest obstruction to the wheels of vehicles travelling upon it. The blocks are laid upon a firm substratum of compost, and will be on a level with the other portions of the road. Arrangements have also been made for transferring the metals and timber of the tramway in Dayswater-road to the Surrey side of the water, to form a part of a connecting link of street railways from the Victoria and Finsbury Railway station to Blackfriars and London bridges.

A STRANGE ROMANCE IN REAL LIFE.

ON Monday afternoon Mr. Richard Guinness Hill, nephew of Mr. the banker and stout brewer of Dublin, was brought before Mr. Caldecott and Mr. Atty, two of the Warwickshire magistrates, at their offices in Rugby, charged on a warrant with having "unlawfully and wilfully made, or caused to be made, to William Herbert, the registrar of births for the district of Rugby, for the purpose of being inserted in the register of births in the same district, certain false statements touching the particulars, by the statute 6th and 7th of William IV., entitled an Act for Registering Births, Deaths, and Marriages in England, required to be made known and registered concerning a male infant born of the body of Amy Georgina Hill, by the said Richard Guinness Hill, her husband, in the district of Rugby aforesaid, on the fifth day of January, 1859." The prisoner is about thirty-two years of age, and of gentlemanly bearing.

Mr. George Francis Cooke, solicitor, of 30, King-street, Cheap-side, London, appeared for the prosecution, and the prisoner was undefended.

From the statement laid before the magistrates it appears the granddaughter of Sir Francis Burdett was adopted by Miss Burdett Coutts, who took the greatest interest in her welfare. Her mother, whilst staying at Brussels, received various offers for her daughter's hand. Amongst these was one made by the prisoner, who, being a member of one of the oldest families in Ireland, was ultimately accepted. After the marriage the prisoner and his wife lived together happily for several years, passing a considerable portion of their time in travelling. It is necessary here to state that a life interest in the lady's fortune, which was very considerable, with the exception of a small portion placed at her own disposal, was settled on the prisoner at the marriage, and subsequently she made a will devising the whole of her property, including, it is understood, a valuable estate, absolutely to him in the event of no issue surviving her decease. In the beginning of 1859 Mrs. Hill, then residing in St. Stephen's Green, Dublin, and expecting daily to be confined, being desirous that her accouchement should take place in London, left Ireland with that view. While on her journey, accompanied by her husband, she was taken unwell, and was unable to proceed beyond Rugby, in a small public house in which town she was delivered, within two hours, of the child involved in the present inquiry. A few days afterwards the prisoner adopted a course to destroy the identity of the child, with the presumed object of possessing himself of the property devised by the will. As shown on oath, the prisoner went to the registrar, Mr. Herbert (since deceased), and registered his child as "Robert Hill, son of Robert Hill and Mary Hill, maiden name Seymour;" the true description being, as far as the parents were concerned, "Richard Guinness Hill, Amy Georgina Hill, maiden name Burdett." A week after the birth of the child the prisoner induced his wife to consent to put it out to nurse, and came to London for the purpose of making the necessary arrangements. The day after his arrival in town he informed his wife that he had made arrangements that would be satisfactory to her, and requested her to forward the child to London by a special train, which he indicated. The mother, believing her husband's representations, intrusted her child, then only ten days old, to Catherine Parsons, a girl fourteen years of age, the daughter of the woman who was then nursing her, and they left by the train mentioned by the prisoner. The child was wrapped in a shawl prized for particular reasons by the mother, and, as will hereafter be seen, it forms an important ingredient in the case. Catherine Parsons states that on arriving at the Euston-square station she was met by the prisoner. He took her in a cab to some part of the metropolis with which, as a country girl, she was unacquainted; and, having deposited a box of the child's clothes, returned with her and the child to the vicinity of Euston station, where they were met by two women, one of whom she describes as a black woman, and to one of whom, by Mr. Hill's direction, she handed the child. Parsons had received strict injunctions from Mrs. Hill to bring back the shawl in which the child was enveloped, but when she endeavoured to do so the woman replied that if she took the child she would take the shawl and all with it, and accordingly retained possession of that article. On the following day the prisoner and the girl returned to Rugby, where she intimated to her mistress that the child had been placed in improper hands. The prisoner, however, combatted this assumption by assuring his wife that the girl was entirely mistaken. From time to time Mrs. Hill expressed the greatest anxiety regarding the welfare of her child, but her husband always asserted that it was in proper hands, and was progressing most satisfactorily.

This state of things continued for about two years, and at length Mrs. Hill told her husband that she insisted upon seeing her child. He refused to comply with her request; a serious altercation took place, and he ultimately subjected her to gross ill-usage. Upon this a separation took place; but a short time subsequently he made overtures to his wife to live with her again. She indignantly repelled his offer for a time, but at length promised to consider them favourably, providing he satisfied her as to what had become of her infant. He informed her in return that it was dead; and she then demanded the register of its death, and pressed him upon this point. Being thus placed in a difficulty, he altered his story, stating that the nurse in whose care he had placed the child had left England for Australia, he providing the passage-money. Mrs. Hill, who had been acting all through with the advice and cognizance of her mother, still doubted the truth of his statement, and placed the matter in the hands of Mr. Cooke, the solicitor, who at once applied to Mr. Inspector Hamilton, of the city of London detective force, for assistance in elucidating the mystery which surrounded the case. Mr. Hamilton selected Mr. Brett, who put out bills offering a reward for the missing child. The result was that a woman named Mackay, living in St. Giles's, stated that about eighteen months previously, when lodging in a house in the Seven Dials, a woman who occupied a room on the same floor, and who had no children of her own, one or two nights consecutively had a child in her room, which Mackay knew by hearing it cry. She spoke to the woman about it, asking her to whom the child belonged. Her fellow-lodger replied that she had received it from a woman who had obtained it from another woman named Andrews, who had informed her that she received it from a gentleman at a railway-station. Mackay added that the female in question left the house a few days afterwards, and she knew nothing further about her. Slight as this clue appeared, Brett worked upon it, and by dint of perseverance he ultimately discovered by its aid that the child his informant had heard cry was the one being eagerly sought after. He travelled from court to court throughout St. Giles's, and at length went to a filthy alley called Lincoln's-court, in Drury-lane. In one of the houses in this place he discovered the woman Andrews, and he also traced the child into her possession. After searching various rooms, Brett proceeded to a small apartment on the second floor. The whole place was in a dreadful state, the stench from the filth being almost overpowering. On the floor in this horrible den Brett discovered the hair to £14,000 a year almost in a state of nudity, and covered with vermin and filth. No shoes were on his feet, and only one dirty rag enveloped the entire body. The toes were terribly scarred with the impression of wounds, while the head and body generally showed unmistakable marks of negligence and ill-usage.

Brett was afterwards informed by Mrs. Andrews that on one wet Saturday she was standing in Windmill-street, Haymarket, apparently selling songs and staylances, but in reality begging, with her two children, one in arms and the other in the gutter by her side, when the prisoner, passing her, in a furtive manner slipped a shilling into her hand. Having passed and repassed several times, he beckoned her to follow him to a dark part of the street. She did so, and he then asked if she would take a child to nurse, telling her that she need only treat it as her own, or that she might, if able, dispose of it by placing it in some workhouse or asylum. She also stated that when she received the child it was wrapped in a shawl,

which she afterwards pledged. Brett had redeemed the shawl, which had been identified by Mrs. Hill. The officer had also obtained possession from Mrs. Andrews of a box, which Mrs. Hill also identified as being the one sent by her with the child, filled with baby linen; and it was worthy of mention that the prisoner had, with the object of still further destroying identity, cut out all the marks which had been inserted upon the infant's clothing. Mrs. Andrews further stated that when the prisoner gave her the child he told her that the mother was dead; that he was a clerk, going to travel on the Continent; but he gave her neither name nor address. The prisoner engaged to pay £16 a year for the child's maintenance, and handed Mrs. Andrews £15 along with the infant. The child has been restored to its mother; but, unfortunately, owing to the neglect from starvation and cold, its ultimate recovery was by no means certain.

When the warrant was granted the prisoner was in Belgium, but he was arrested immediately on his arrival in England.

Evidence to the above effect having been given, the prisoner was remanded till Tuesday, the 24th inst., the magistrates intimating that they would accept bail—the prisoner himself in £500, and two sureties in £500 each.

FATAL BOILER EXPLOSION.

TEN LIVES LOST.

A STEAM-BOILER explosion of a most serious character took place on Monday at the Lower Ordnance-wharf, Rotherhithe-street, near the Commercial Docks, in the occupation of Messrs. François and Joseph Bedart, oil-cake manufacturers, by which no fewer than ten persons have lost their lives. The premises in which the accident occurred cover a large area on that portion of the waterside which is known as Cuckold's Point, opposite to the Limehouse entrance of the West India Docks, and about half a mile from the Commercial Dock Pier. They comprised several buildings wherein the process of grinding linseed, extracting and refining the oil, and compressing the oil-cakes, was carried on. The boiler and engine-house stood on the river side of the mills, parallel with the wharf, and contained two long boilers of 50-horse power each, laid in massive brickwork.

The number of hands generally employed in the mills is limited, but, owing to the pressure of business and the urgency of some shipping orders, a relay of workmen was taken on at six o'clock for night-work. About this time a defect was noticed in a joint of the feed-pipe to the engine. The engine-driver at once sent for Thomas Pinks, an engine fitter living in the neighbourhood, who was usually employed by the firm to make good the defect, and at the same time turned the steam off. It would seem, however, that the driver, acting under the impression, probably, that the joint would speedily be repaired, had omitted to "draw" the furnace, as a quantity of fuel is stated to have been in it. The fitter arrived, and, with the driver, proceeded down to the engine-room and commenced work; but, finding that they wanted assistance, they communicated with one of the principals, and the whole of the labourers who had just come on were sent to their aid. Six of the men were desired to support the pipe which ran across the roof, while Pinks and Wild went on repairing the joint. There was also in the engine-room Mr. Alfred Duvrenant, a young man, nephew of a member of the firm, and Alec Burk, the foreman. The men had not been long at the joint before those in other parts of the factory were alarmed by a loud rumbling noise and heavy concussion, which shook the neighbourhood, followed by a terrific crash and a rush of steam and smoke. The boiler-house was seen to be in ruins. A piercing scream was heard to come from the engine-room where the men had been at work, but it was some minutes before any attempt could be made to approach it. At length, the smoke and steam having somewhat subsided, Riley and Clifford, who had only left the place a minute or so before, and two or three other labourers, contrived to make a descent to the place. The sight which presented itself was truly horrible. The engine-room was a small brick chamber, about eight feet by twelve, at the basement of the mills. A glance at the boiler too clearly showed that the inner part of it, with the massive iron bars of the furnace and other plates, had been blown out, as if from a cannon's mouth, direct at the poor fellows who were at work only some four or five feet in front. Of the ten unhappy men who were in this chamber not one escaped. Two or three were dashed against the brick wall and killed on the spot, their skulls being driven in by the iron bars and pieces of boiler which were scattered by the explosion. Others were frightfully burnt and scalded, and bleeding from fearful gashes on their hands and other parts of their body. Labourers from adjacent wharves and the neighbourhood lent a ready hand in extricating the sufferers. Several boats' crews from the shipping moored in the river also came to the spot, and the Thames Police, under the direction of Inspectors Clark and Cox, with a strong force of the M division, rendered most valuable aid at this very trying moment. Five of the unfortunate men when got up from the engine-room were found to be dead. They were Mr. Alfred Duvrenant, above referred to, aged 18; Samuel Wild, 34, engine driver; Thomas Spinks, 24, engine fitter; James Keeley, 45, labourer; and Patrick Cauty, 16, labourer. The foreman, A. Burk, was removed to his residence, and died shortly afterwards. The other four sufferers, Charles Macarthy, 15, labourer; James Gailly, 17, labourer; John Burk, 26; and — Davis, 17, were removed to the Dreadnought hospital ship, off Greenwich. Two of the sufferers died in the course of the night, and the other two breathed their last on Tuesday morning.

With reference to the cause of the catastrophe it is difficult to offer an opinion until the boiler has been surveyed by the proper authorities. It is what is termed a Cornish boiler, and has not been in use any length of time. The safety-valve and the other gear which would have assisted in arriving at the true pressure appear to have been carried away, and it is feared that there will be some difficulty in eliciting the truth, as all those who could have given the information have been killed.

Several of the sufferers have left large families; and, besides those killed and injured on the premises, a number of other persons have sustained serious hurts from the fragments of bricks, iron, &c., thrown about, even to the distance of some hundreds of yards from the scene of the catastrophe. An inquest on the bodies of the sufferers was held on Wednesday. As there was no one who was present at the accident left alive to tell the tale, the evidence was necessarily confined to those who had seen the boiler a short time before the explosion, and according to their statement it was in good working order. The jury in their verdict have, however, censured the mode in which the safety valves were made to act—a point on which engine-drivers are often perilously careless.

THE ST. LEGER.—The great northern racing event came off at Doncaster on Wednesday, and has resulted in the defeat of the favourite, Kettledrum, Mr. T. Anson's Culler Os having come in the winner by a head, after a spirited and exciting contest. This result has disappointed all expectations, and the sums which will change hands in the betting world on the occasion will, it is believed, be very considerable.

RAILWAY SIGNALS.—A circular has just been issued by the authorities of the London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway to the effect that a man, to be called the "travelling porter," will accompany every train. His business will be to ride on the seat placed for him on the tenders, and to keep a steady and vigilant look-out on both sides and along the top of the train, so that, in case of any accident to any of the carriages on the train, or of any signal from the guard, or any apparently sufficient cause that may come to his observation, he may at once communicate with the engine-driver, and, if necessary, stop the train. Further, it will be his business, generally, to have charge of the carriages forming the train, to see that in every respect they are in good condition and properly coupled up. He will be required to observe carefully the running of the different carriages, and to take note of the number of any one that may appear to run unsteadily, or have any other defect, and to enter a note of this and of any other circumstance requiring to be remedied in a report-book to be made up each journey.

Literature.

Martyrs to Circumstance. By the Hon. Mrs. YELVERTON. Bentley.

The Hon. Mrs. Yelverton has now published in one volume the remaining portion of her "Martyrs to Circumstance," and we do not feel disposed to let it pass without a word or two. Of course, the whole story of the loves and fortunes of "Major Etherington" and "Thierna Saxelhurst" is a *variorum* reading of a tale we all know too well from the published reports of a certain trial, only it is furnished with a climax or wind-up suited to the author's notions of what would be an appropriate ending for such a story. If it were not for the amount of real fact which lies behind "Martyrs to Circumstance" it would not deserve ten lines at the hands of a reviewer; and all the criticism it will bear lies in such small compass, that whoever notices the work at all is tempted to devote a little space to a cooler estimate of the facts that underlie it than anybody seemed disposed to form at the time of "the great trial."

By the opposite faction injustice has been done, and still is done, to Mrs. Yelverton. She was not by any means the sort of woman "society" delights to leave its card with, and yet "society" was extravagant in its exultation at the result of the proceedings in Dublin. Few persons doubted that the lady was entitled to her victory; but when she had won it there was, in justice, an end. The spirit in which she had sought it was unamiable; the consequences to the man were punishment enough; and the whole affair was one of such complicated misery that one would have thought people would hesitate to deliver opinions about it. They did not hesitate, as we all know; and they have since not hesitated to express opinions of a different kind, but equally valueless. It does not follow, because Mrs. Yelverton can speak of sacred things with what to others appears levity, that her piety is feigned; or that because "Thierna" seems to have taken an unusually demonstrative part in the love-making between her and Major Etherington, she was not pure. There is, on the contrary, not the shadow of an excuse, in any eye but that of "society," for doubting the purity of the heroine or the sincerity of her adherence to what her "Church" requires. She belongs to a type which is not a favourite of the English mind, and which is always getting itself punished for its deviations from what is prudent. So much unreservedness, such a total lack of the instinct which in other people teaches when to drop the veil, is unintelligible to the majority of persons, and they can conceive no explanation of it but the worst; or, if they construe it pretty favourably, they hold that it palliates wrongdoing in the man. And so it may, but it cannot excuse treachery; nor, whatever the "public" may have to say about Major Yelverton, will the author of "Martyrs to Circumstance" allow Major Etherington to incur any blame which reflects severely upon his character. He, like Thierna, is throughout the story a victim, or, as she prefers to say (incorrectly), a "martyr to circumstance." Thierna writes out "a full and minute statement of every event connected with her marriage, and a detailed account of every conversation between herself and Cyril, her own motives and feelings, and what she conscientiously believed to be his. It presented a very different colouring of events from that which the public had adopted, and which was generally believed. . . . Katina and her husband [subordinate characters in the story] faithfully promised that, whether the marriage was proved or not, that statement should be published to the world. . . . "The world," said Thierna, "shall not accuse him in ignorance, if it will in malice. I write for those dispassionate reasoners who are willing to consider both sides of the case; who, although they are compelled to censure for errors and faults, will not condemn for crimes never committed, never even contemplated. I appeal to every man and woman who ever knew him to believe me. . . . I think it my duty to him, so grossly misrepresented, and to those whose respect and esteem I desire to maintain, to speak what I earnestly believe to be true, and not to obtain sympathy for my sorrows, which are sent, God best knows why, by blackening him."

We confess we have not yet arrived at such a pitch of cynicism as to doubt the sincere and kindly spirit in which Thierna's story is told. We believe the last-quoted sentence contains the real key to the author's motive in telling it. In point of fact, it does nothing in the way of excusing either of the parties concerned but what the imaginations of people who have any could well supply. Major Etherington is painted as the most reluctant and suffering of bigamists. The first marriage is declared the true one. He goes about the world fighting for freedom wherever freedom wants a soldier, and falls upon the field of battle. Thierna becomes a "Propagandian" sister, and, in the exercise of her sacred functions, waits upon the last hours of her husband. All this is perfectly commonplace; but the author should receive the congratulations of good men and women that she has retained sufficient of the feelings which make life beautiful to conceive of such a climax to such a story. Evidently Thierna does not see its details in the same light as the lawyers, the priest, and the gossips who are introduced into the narrative. So much the better. Let people who have lost the "romantic" trust to which she yet holds, laugh at her. We cannot do anything of the kind. When we have said that this author writes like Fanny Fern, and that there is hardly a page of her book without a soliloquy—when we have said that "Thierna" is fast, flighty, sentimental, vain almost to insanity, and incapable of seeing an inch below the surface of things—we have yet to say what is of infinitely more importance than all that—namely, that, though the symbols under which "Thierna" represents her faith in a goodness and beauty of life which is to be clung to as a hope and a guide, though "Circumstance" may interfere with its realisation, are theatrical, poor, and silly, though she hangs them out to the world in a manner which is in the teeth of English taste, and which proves her to be, for all her energy and fire, a weak, hysterical, hasty woman, it is only justice, not to say chivalry, to recognise her for what she evidently is, and not abuse her because a few months back somebody else was over-abused.

We do not recommend any one to buy, or even to read, Mrs. Yelverton's book, but a few carefully-balanced, honest words about it were due both to her and the public.

Something for Everybody; and, A Garland for the Year. A Book for House and Home. By JOHN TIMBS, F.S.A. Lockwood and Co.

This is another of those peculiar books by the same writer which may be read for an hour, or for a day, every page of which is complete in itself, and will always be fresh, because it is next to impossible to remember accurately so vast an amount of curious information, and which seem to contain exactly that which is to be found nowhere else. The very book for the celebrated five minutes before dinner; or to dip into in a punt whilst your man is putting on the bait; or for the seaside, or the hedge-side; or, indeed, for any place, or under any circumstances, when the mind is capable of receiving a little amusing information. The contents are most varied; and if everybody takes the peculiar passage fitted for him, Mr. Timbs's readers might form in themselves the largest army ever known. One half of the volume consists of a series called "A Garland for the Year," describing what is the origin of each particular day, and the changes it has undergone. Thus, from New Year's Day to New Year's Eve, we learn exactly why and wherefore particular observances are preserved why they were instituted, or why they have fallen into disuse. Sometimes, indeed, the explanations leave us no wiser than they found us. Doctors will differ, and great authorities will be at variance. Of Maunday Thursday we find that it is named from the *Dies mandati*, but the name is also referred to the mounds or baskets in which the Royal bounty was formerly distributed. Again, Yarmouth fishermen still call a particular kind of basket a maund, and

salt fish once formed a portion of the annual gift. M. Steinmatz submits, likewise, that it is taken from the mass for the day, "Take eat" (from 1st Corinthians), the Latin of which is "Accipite et manducate;" and so our original confusion is only twice confounded by reading all about it. It is, like the constantly-quoted interpreter, "harder to be understood of the two," or Byron's "I wish he would explain his explanation." But sometimes the information, besides being amusing, is accurate. It is something to know that Ireland's St. Patrick was a Scotchman—just as most European countries have foreigners for Kings, and no man is a prophet in his own country. Thames watermen are perhaps unaware that Doggett, of the annual coat and badge, was an Irishman, and that he left the legacy in commemoration of the accession of the house of Brunswick, August 1, 1714. Irish loyalty, then, is not merely an affair of Queen Victoria and 1861. But Doggett was by profession a comedian. It is amusing to find that formerly, at Gloucester, apprentices stipulated that they should not be expected to eat salmon more than three times a week, thus displaying an objection to fish well known to exist on many parts of the coast of Ireland to this day. A "voluntarily-boiled salmon" was considered a fine dish by the Frasers of Lovat. To effect it a huge kettle was placed on the rocks by the side of the fall, close to the edge, and kept boiling, and the company had only to wait until a salmon fell in, and was thus boiled in their presence. "Why venison is sold by fishmongers" is answered to the effect that the nobles and gentry, being too proud to receive money for their superfluous bucks, sent them to the fishmongers and received fish in return. In modern times they prefer the money. These are simply tastes of Mr. Timbs's amusing quality. The latter half of the book is subdivided into Pail-mall, the Game and the Street (not very new), Whitebait, Personal Recollections of Brambletye, Domestic Manners and Customs, Gardening, Bees, and Prompt Remedies and Small Services. A more varied and agreeable volume it would be difficult to find.

Village Sketches: Descriptive of Club and School Festivals, and other Village Gatherings and Institutions. By T. C. WHITEHEAD, M.A., Incumbent of Gawcutt, Bucks. Bosworth and Harrison.

With Mr. Whitehead the reader is face to face with an admirable specimen of the working clergy. He is precisely the man to make a sunshine in a shady place, and has probably done more real good in the world than the whole Bench of Bishops put together. He describes—and describes with all modesty and humility—how his village has gradually passed from what most villages are into a scene of comparative purity, industry, and consequent happiness. Such matters as tea-meetings and clubs for the peasantry must always be managed with a delicate hand. Mr. Whitehead has hit the secret. After putting any scheme in motion his plan is never to interfere, but to leave the men to be their own masters, and to make the measures apparently their own; thus teaching them self-reliance, and avoiding the faintest colouring of a sensible Englishman's greatest horror—cant. There is little doubt but that the parade of piety is the greatest enemy that piety can have. Moral teaching should come as pleasantly as sleep or breakfast, but too frequently it assumes a complexion absolutely penal. Mr. Whitehead evidently possesses the common-sense faculty of winning men from wicked ways; and, as a sample of what may be done by a single individual will, his book is to be strongly recommended to all who are interested in the great cause of humanity. Young clergymen especially should study it.

THE BOWIE-KNIFE PRACTICE.

THE bowie-knife has become such an "institution" in some parts of South America, that there is scarcely ever a "difficulty" in which its assistance is not called for. Even amongst a portion of the Confederate troops this weapon would seem to be more relied on than the bayonet, although at present few opportunities have occurred for using either at close quarters, except on those occasions when the surprise and assassination of sentries at outlying pickets made the knife indispensable.

James Bowie, the inventor of the formidable weapon which takes his name, was engaged in a war which called for true pluck and no mean personal prowess. Associated with Crockett and the other bold spirits who opposed Santa Anna in Mexico, the Colonel fell a victim to the overpowering numbers of the enemy, who attacked the quarters where he lay ill in bed; but his reputation was so great amongst the skulking Mexican troops, that they even feared to attack him except by rushing in upon him all together. As it was, he "took a deal of killing," for, though exhausted by sickness and privation, the veteran sat up in bed fighting, and after shooting and felling three or four of his opponents, was found to have locked his last antagonist in a death-grip, having previously driven the fatal knife through his body.

Amongst the Mississippi troops in the Confederate army the bowie practice is a favourite pastime in camp, and many of them have had sufficient experience, either in meeting or getting up "difficulties," to make them tolerably skilful in the use of the weapon.

It will be seen by our Engraving that the knife is used as a projectile as well as for stabbing; and, by the appearance of the group who are engaged in the sport of aiming with it at a sheet of paper fastened to a tree, we should fear they would not be too scrupulous as to its employment.

"THE HARVEST MOON."

WE could never thoroughly understand why the writers of anacreontic and bacchanalian songs should represent the wildest orgies as being perpetrated by moonlight.

Under the false sparkle of wax candles multiplied throughout glass, by the garish blaze and searing heat of gaslight, even in the dim half-gloom of some tallow-smelling potherie parlour, that peculiar operation known as "making a night of it" may be frequently carried on; but there is something so calm, so peacefully pure, about moonlight, that we are willing to believe most men who retained any perception of the fitness of things would shrink from desecrating its influence.

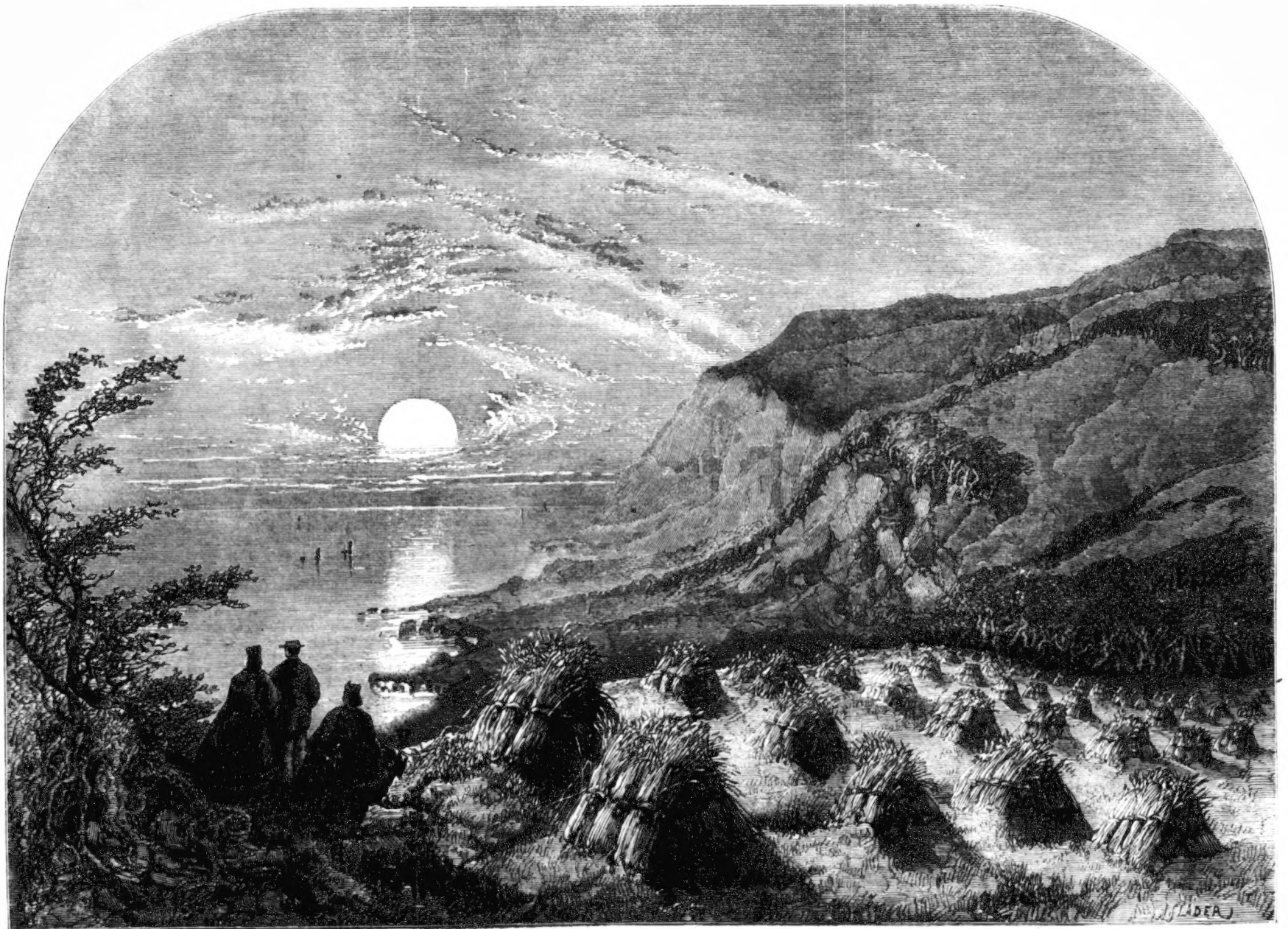
Even in the streets of a great city the silvery light seems to refine and etherealise such gross material aspects as the full shine of day reveals too painfully; the very street architecture of London thoroughfares, in all its irregularity of ugliness, shows through some charmed medium on a brilliant night, and details being absorbed in the haze, which hangs like a gauzy veil over every distant object, harsh outlines are softened and sordid usages concealed.

If this be the case in murky town districts, how glorious is a moonlight night in the country, where wood and water, hill and fell, lie one vast enchanted picture under the clear sky! Harvests come earlier, we think, now-a-days, for the larger proportion of our English crops are carried before the shine of the full harvest moon; but its appearance was, and we believe is still, hailed with enthusiasm when a bountiful Providence had secured to the farmer the full fruition of his corn-fields. Then, as the last creaking wain bore the final sheath, arose the jubilation of the harvest home—then was spread in the great farm kitchen the hospitable supper—then was broached the brown October ale; and men rejoiced that the broad moon shining in the heavens was a harbinger of prosperity and plenty.

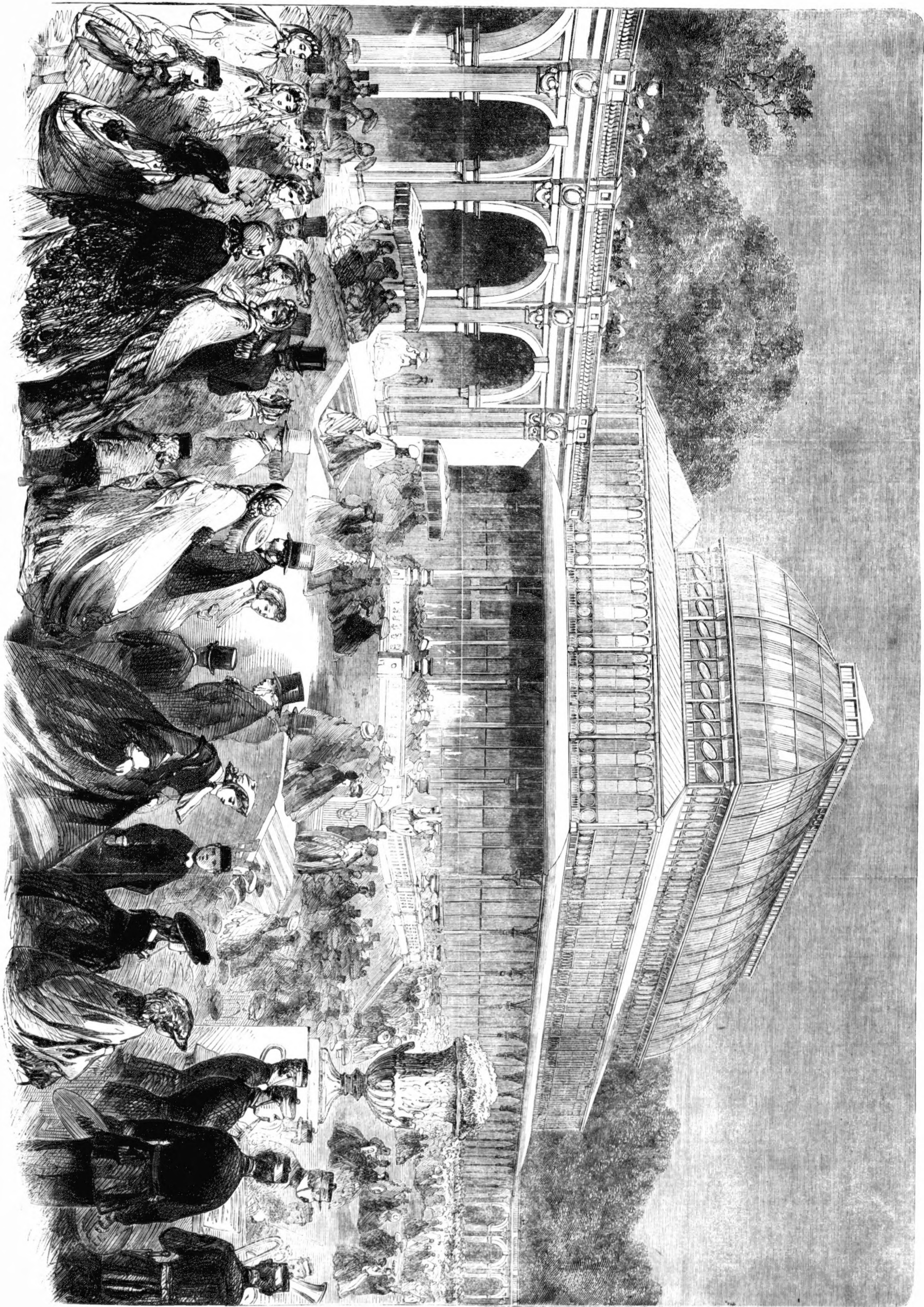
We have heard something lately of the harvest home of industrial schools, where boys are being trained to bear good and honest names, and where the good old custom of a feast of the in-gathering has been revived under the superintendence of the clergyman. We are right glad when we hear of the teachers of religion helping in the harmless amusements of their people and upholding the means of sincere and hearty enjoyment. Let us all strive to be more virtuous, and to add to faith brotherly kindness, charity, and temperance; but let the "cakes and ale" continue with the "virtue."



THE CIVIL WAR IN AMERICA.—CAMP AMUSEMENT OF THE MISSISSIPPIAN VOLUNTEERS



THE HARVEST MOON



A SKETCH IN THE GALLERY OF THE ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY ON THE DAY OF THE DAHLIA SHOW.

THE HORTICULTURAL SHOW AT KENSINGTON.

The interesting and highly-artistic exhibition which took place in the gardens of the Horticultural Society at Kensington, on Wednesday, the 11th inst., was briefly noticed in our "Lounge" column last week. We now present our readers with an Engraving illustrative of what we deemed the most attractive feature of the exhibition; and, to eke out with the pen what cannot be fully shown by means of the pencil, add a few descriptive details, so as to convey some idea of the beautiful scene which the gardens presented on the occasion.

The splendid new gardens of the Royal Horticultural Society, which are situated in close proximity to the spacious edifice now erecting at South Kensington for the International Exhibition of 1862, presented an unusually brilliant and animated scene on the day in question. Since the gardens were opened by her Majesty last June, great progress has been made with the work that was then unfinished, their beauty having, of course, been greatly enhanced in the interval. Much of the ornamentation is, however, still incomplete, and some important adjuncts have yet to be provided. But, when one reflects how charming the general effect is in spite of such drawbacks, he is utterly at a loss to conceive how exquisite it must be when these deficiencies shall have been supplied. The tasteful manner in which the grounds are laid out and decked in all the glories of richly-diversified colours is well known to the inhabitants of the metropolis; but it would be improper here to omit to notice that the two largest central parterres, which are designed in the ribbon style of gardening, elicited universal admiration for their unsurpassed if not unequalled beauty. The richness, brilliancy, and harmonious variety of their tints, render them a dazzling triumph of floriculture which must be seen to be appreciated. The fantastic designs in variegated gravel, which in form and colour resemble the mosaic pavements of the finest Italian churches, also contribute to heighten the general effect.

The flower-show was held in the magnificent conservatory, where a spectacle was to be witnessed which even outshone the splendours of the grounds. The first object which arrested the eye on entering the light and graceful structure was a splendid array of French and German asters of every hue, massed together in richest profusion opposite the main doorway. Having lingered long in rapt admiration of these floral beauties, the visitor passed on to the fresh delights which still awaited him. The entire building was studded with dahlias blooms, hollyhocks, gladioli, ploxes, petunias, roses, lilies, geraniums, verbenas, ferns, and almost every imaginable native or exotic flower and shrub. The dahlias were the predominating feature of the show, but most of the other plants were exceedingly well represented. A group of tree-frogs, from the south of Europe, inclosed in a glass case filled with mosses, lichens, and ferns, upon which they were to be seen disporting themselves, was an object of much interest throughout the day, especially with the juvenile visitors. The collection was enriched by two fine hardy palms and an Australian "Eugenia" (of the myrtle tribe), each between twenty-five and thirty feet high, and presented to the society by the Duke of Wellington. A curious plant, having its habitat in Manila, but labelled as previously "unknown" to the researches of the botanist, also attracted much attention. In appearance it strongly resembles a series of tree-frogs, of larger dimensions than those already noticed, and ranged closely together in single file, as if preparing for battle.

When the spectators had sated themselves with the banquet of colours and perfumes provided for them within the conservatory, a rich treat appealing to another sense still remained to them out of doors. Two excellent military bands, the one belonging to the Royal Artillery, the other to the Royal Engineers, were stationed on opposite terraces, and during the day alternately performed a pleasing selection of marches, overtures, fantasias, waltzes, and operatic airs. The gay company spent hour after hour upon the grassy slopes and elegant terraces listening to the soft or stirring strains of these musicians; and when the shades of evening night put an end to their pleasures, all seemed to quit the lovely scene with manifest reluctance. The weather was magnificent, and exhibited the gardens to the greatest advantage.

The collection of flowers exhibited was remarkable as well for its extent and variety as for the singular fineness of the individual specimens, and in the estimation of experienced floriculturists the show was altogether a decided success.

Prizes were awarded for the best specimens of the different species of flowers exhibited; and, though we have not space to give the list of successful competitors, we may remark that an examination of it shows that horticultural skill from far and near had been laid under contribution to grace the gardens on the occasion, that east and west, north and south, were alike well represented among the competitors, and that all quarters appeared to carry off a fair share of the prizes—proof at once of the general attention paid to floriculture, and of the excellence everywhere attained.

A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF BRICKS, portions of statues in black marble, basalt, and granite, covered with characters, and several large cases of books in manuscripts in the Oriental languages, have just arrived at St. Katharine Docks from Buxtorf, and will forthwith be removed to the British Museum.

IT IS REMOVED that the accounts of a gentleman recently deceased, in a small town in the county of Suffolk, exhibit defalcations to the amount of £50,000. The deceased gentleman was not only not suspected during his lifetime, but was greatly respected by all parties in the town and neighbourhood.

A SON OF MR. SMITH, OF STOURCLIFFE, CHRISTCHURCH, a boy of fifteen, went out shooting one day last week, and was found on the following morning dead on the cliffs by one of the Coastguard. It is supposed that the boy was loading the gun when it went off and the contents lodged in his head.

THE UNITED STATES' GOVERNMENT have abandoned their project of collecting duties outside the ports of the South by armed vessels, owing, we believe, to the representations of Lord Lyons, aided by the manifest inconvenience and illegality of the intended process.

A LAND PROPRIETOR, NAMED GIRAUD, has been arrested on a charge of forging notes of the Bank of France to a large amount; and it is added that the bank has within a few years paid forged notes to the extent of 1,000,000 francs.

MR. LIND-GOLDSCHMIDT IS TO SING GRATUITOUSLY in a grand musical performance which is arranged to take place in Exeter Hall for the benefit of the church and schools in the vicinity of the Victoria Docks. The oratorio of "Elijah" will be given, and the performance will be under the direction of M. Otto-Goldschmidt.

TWO PRIESTS—one a friar of the order of San Lorenzo of Lucina, and the other a Piedmontese canon of the church of Monte Santo—have been arrested in Rome for some unknown offence against Church and State, and consigned to the dungeons of the Inquisition.

MR. S. LALING, the Finance Minister of India, who is about to return to that country, had a conference on Thursday with the leading men of Manchester, on the subject of how the Indian Government can best promote the growing of cotton in our Eastern empire.

PROPOSED BANQUET TO EARL RUSSELL.—The Liberals of the north of England propose entertaining Earl Russell at dinner in the Townhall, Newcastle, on the occasion of a visit which he intends paying to that part of the country about the middle of October. Lord Durham is expected to preside.

THE ARMSTRONG GUNS AT FAULT.—The experiments on Captain Coles's cupola shield have been brought to a sudden stop by the successive smashing of no less than six vent-pieces in one day from the Armstrong guns in use on board the "Trusty." This really is a most serious matter, the more so as it is not exceptional, having occurred in various other places; and it mainly destroys our confidence in the present rifled guns adopted for the use of the English artillery. Nor is the matter ameliorated by the reflection that the vent-pieces occasionally jam in the chamber, so as to prevent its replacement with another and similar substitute. It is clear that, as we stand at present, no dependence can be placed on continuous firing from the Armstrong artillery; and it is of the very utmost importance that the attention of the Ordnance Select Committee should be thoroughly awakened, either to the complete remedy of the failure, or the abandonment of the present system of breech-loading for a better one.—*Army and Navy Gazette.*

With the ILLUSTRATED TIMES of OCTOBER 26 will be issued a FINISHED ENGRAVING, Printed on Superfine Paper, of ABSOLON'S WELL-KNOWN PICTURE entitled

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ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1861.

AMERICAN PROSPECTS.

BEYOND all details of successes in the contest between the Northern and Southern States of America, the point of interest upon which the anxiety of on-lookers is concentrated is the prospective result of the struggle. The question is, What is to be gained by either side?

The Southerners demand secession. The Northerners insist upon unity, and, as a means, declare a war, treating their adversaries, by-the-way, not as a hostile power, but as rebels and traitors, as the Government of the mad King treated both in unity three-quarters of a century before. The very denomination of the United States implies a community of power and right consolidated for a common purpose. It is the "style, firm, and denomination," as the lawyers phrase it, of a partnership, not of individuals, but of territories and communities. The title itself implies equal rights of conjunction, and therefore of severance at will.

The Southern States desire separation, whereupon the North, to enforce unity, proclaims a war. It is the case of A, who, to insist upon B continuing a neighbourly intimacy, threatens to thrash him. But if B, declining such association, and resisting the being thrashed, beats A for the attempt, the intimacy is not by any means in more hopeful process of continuity than if A had succeeded. And this happens to be the position of the two contending Powers, unless we allow for the possibility of both parties abstaining from unnecessary combat, which appears somewhat probable in this matter. For at Bull Run, for instance, one side runs away, and the other does not pursue, perhaps from prudential reasons. Neither side has, in fact, anything to fight for. One wishes to quarrel, the other fights, or tries to fight, to prevent the other from quarrelling. Was ever burlesque combat so absurd? The bravest of men might prefer a helter-skelter to a stand-up pummeling in any cause half so unreasonable. In this view even the North apparently begins to appreciate the untenableness of its position, and endeavours to shift the issue by declaring the difference to be on the matter of Slavery. Granting this, the propriety of separation only appears the more palpable. The North accepted the Fugitive Slave Law only in deference to the desire if not to the coercion of the Slave States. Divide the States into Pro-Slavery and Abolitionist, and Abolitionist soil becomes as free for the black man as that of England itself. The chances of slave escape would thereby become doubled, and the value of human property in the hands of slaveholders proportionally deteriorated. The separation of the States would therefore be one of the longest progressive steps to the downfall of Slavery which even its most earnest antagonists might hope to see, in our generation. But the moral effect of one half of America being alone in standing out in favour of the peculiar institution would be immense in favour of Abolition.

The matter has another and by no means an unimportant aspect—viz., the fiscal. Trade, in war time, must experience a stoppage between the contending parties. It is a quarrel between the producer and his broker. The producer, if not engaged in active military labour, must let his produce rot for want of a purchaser. The purchaser, besides wasting his capital in an unproductive army, has no employ for his surplus, if any. North and South mutually repudiate debts, destroying confidence, the essence of commerce, and ruining individuals without benefiting the community. Meanwhile, the remainder of the world stands aloof in deference to both, or restrained from commerce with either by the danger of collision with the other. And this is the situation which unhappy America is for the present content to accept. What will be the end of it?

That end, unless some master-mind arise, and both parties become suddenly gifted with more wisdom than either at present displays, can only be separation. There may be fights, alternate victories, cruel bloodsheddings, recriminations, and reprisals; but all these will only widen the breach into impassability.

At this present stage of the contest, the North is vapouring about "high treason" in a most extraordinary way, which leads one to believe that this little additional excitement is actually forced up to give a kind of romantic or chivalric touch to the story. This view is strengthened by the invitation of the North to Garibaldi, that famous hero being not so much a General as a brave enthusiast capable of propagating his own enthusiasm. This is what is wanted—enthusiasm. The North knows this, and degrades itself by calling in foreign aid against so-called "treason"—not the aid of a foreign army, which would be derogatory enough, but of one foreign man. This does not look like the spirit by which battles are won. But the policy of the North—to conquer, to force the South into submission—must be aggressive. Defence alone will serve the purpose of the South. Conquest on the aggressive side is impossible; the only success can be that of inflicting injury.

The result can therefore be predicted without pretension to prophecy. The war must die out: it can never be fought out. Sooner or later the right to secede must be admitted, and its practice allowed. All that America can hope to gain by the

contest is that purification by fire which appears to be necessary to the development and to the right use of the liberties of a nation. Our freedom of the press, our Constitution, our national regard for life, limb, and personal liberty, have all been earned through difficulty, struggle, and trial. In America, where they had not been so dearly paid for, we find ribaldry in the journals, ruffianism in the Congress, "rowdism" among the populace. The civil war will not be unprofitable if it cure or even alleviate the temper which has given rise to these disorders, which have been, after all, the primary cause and motive power of this most irrational contest.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

HER MAJESTY has selected a design for a lace shawl by a student of the Female School of Art to be shown at the International Exhibition of 1862, and it is to be hoped that manufacturers and others will follow the example.

THE PRINCE OF WALES passed through Belgium on Saturday, on his way to Prussia, to witness the great military manoeuvres which are to take place there. His Royal Highness landed at Ostend, and was met at Malines by the Duke of Brabant, who accompanied his Royal cousin as far as the Lenden station. On arriving at Cologne the Prince was received with great distinction by the King and Queen of Prussia.

PRINCE ALFRED was to sail from Liverpool to-day (Saturday) by the Cunard steam-ship Niagara for Halifax, N. S., en route to join his ship, the St. George, at present on the North American station.

THE DESPATCHES FROM HER BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S CONSUL AT CHARLESTON to Earl Russell, seized by the authorities at New York, have been dispatched by Mr. Seward to England in the hands of a special messenger.

THE MARRIAGE was celebrated last week, at Trinity Church, Chelsea, by the Rev. Charles Kingsley, of Mr. John A. Froude to Henrietta, daughter of the late Mr. John Ashley Warre, M.P.

A MARRIAGE is arranged between Captain the Hon. D. Monson, 52nd Light Infantry, second son of Lord Monson, and Miss Augusta Ellis, youngest daughter of the late Lieutenant-Colonel the Hon. A. Ellis, and niece of Lord Howard de Walden.

IT IS THOUGHT THAT ELIHU BURRITT will receive the appointment of American Consul to Newcastle, England.

THE GOVERNMENT intend to legalise the Sydney sovereign as a lawful tender throughout her Majesty's dominions.

IT IS STATED that the whole of the ships in the Chatham division of the reserve are taking on board their sea-stores, so that they may, should any emergency arise, be fitted for sea at a very short notice.

THE SUBSCRIPTION opened in Portugal for erecting a monument to the memory of Camoens amounts to upwards of 25,000 dollars.

IT IS ESTIMATED that about 30,000 head of game have been bagged in Perthshire since the "twelfth."

AMONG the persons who paid their respects to the Emperor Napoleon at Biarritz was General Miramon, ex-President of Mexico.

GENERAL TURK was married to Mdlle. Wyse-Bonaparte a few days since, at Mondori.

IT IS PROPOSED to erect a monument to the memory of the late Richard Costler, and a meeting of roblenem and gentlemen favourable to the proposal has been held, and a committee appointed to collect subscriptions.

THE DEATH OF COLONEL SIR G. R. BARKER, K.C.B., commanding the artillery in Bengal, is reported.

THE LEADING BREWERS OF BURTON have issued circulars to their customers informing them that on and after the 1st of October the price of ale will be reduced 6s. per barrel, "the prospects of the harvest happily enabling them to make the reduction."

THE RIGHT HON. FRANK PEARL, who has been suffering from severe illness, is now much better, and has left town for his seat at Hampden-in-Arden, Warwickshire.

AN ATTEMPT was made last week to burn Kilkenny College, which happily, was unsuccessful; but all efforts to discover the perpetrators have hitherto failed.

THE PROHIBITION TO SELL GARIBALDI'S PORTRAIT AT VIENNA seems to have been tacitly revoked, as his likeness may now be seen in the windows of many printellers.

COUNT SALLABERRY, a French gentleman on a tour in China, is reported to have been murdered by his servants, an Italian and an Englishman, who took possession of his junk, and fled in the direction of Ningpo.

THE FORTIFICATIONS ON THE MIDWAY have been supplied with heavy Armstrong guns.

AMONG the curiosities lately exhibited at Barnum's Museum at New York were two living whales from Baffin's Bay. They sported and played for the amusement of visitors from a huge tank. One lived four days and the other a week at the museum.

AN APPLICATION has been made to the Commissioners for the Exhibition of 1862 for permission to exhibit "specimens illustrative of the seven ages of a flea."

GENERAL PANTI, of the Italian army, and Marshal Concha, in the service of the Queen of Spain, a few days since visited the school at Vincennes for gunnery practice.

MR. EDWIN BOOTH, an American actor, has, it is said, accepted an engagement at the Haymarket Theatre, where he is shortly expected to appear.

THE CONGRESS OF GERMAN ECONOMISTS which lately met at Stuttgart have discussed the question respecting trade associations or guilds, and have unanimously decided that these bodies should not be maintained.

OUR PERCUSSION-CAPS in future are to have an increased detonating power, the component parts of fulminating mercury and chlorate of potash having been rearranged under the careful experiments of Lieutenant-Colonel Boxer, of the Royal Laboratory.

THE SULTAN recently went to assist in extinguishing a fire which had broken out near the Imperial Palace, and, not observing his First Chamberlain present, who resided near the spot, has dismissed him for failing to perform a public duty.

THE DUKE OF RUTLAND AND MR. BAILLIE COCHRANE have recently been on a visit to Venice, and, it is said, have been "taking notes" with the view of vindicating the conduct of Austria in the government of that province.

WILLIAM NORMAN, a farm bailiff, was last week sentenced to three months' hard labour for assaulting a poor woman whom he found gleanng in a field belonging to him.

MR. MARTIN TUPPER was thrown from his carriage last week, and had one of his ribs broken, besides sustaining other injuries.

A VOLUNTEER CORPS OF ENGINEERS is about to be organised in South-west, of which Sir C. W. Pasley, K.C.B., has been requested to take the command.

A TURIN LETTER states that rain is much wanted in that part of Italy, and that prayers for it are said daily in the churches. There has been, it appears, not a single shower now for nearly three months.

IN THE PROGRESS OF THE WORKS FOR THE RESTORATION OF WORCESTER CATHEDRAL a very curious discovery has been made—that of a coffin, with the remains of a human being embedded in a wall of the sacred edifice.

THE BODIES OF A MAN AND WOMAN, husband and wife, who lost their lives in the late collision between the steamer Metis and another vessel in the Thames, have been found floating in the river.

W. J. BRUNSDEN, aged twenty-two, tied his legs together and threw himself into the Thames because his sweetheart told him she could only think of him as a friend.

THE DEAN AND CHAPTER OF DURHAM have elected the Right Rev. Dr. Charles Barry to the bishopric of Durham, and the confirmation will shortly take place in York Minster.

MAJOR GARMICHAEL SMYTHE, stepfather of Mr. Thackeray, died suddenly in Glasgow on Monday.

MR. AND MRS. GORDON, MISSIONARIES, have been killed by the natives of Eromanga, in the South Sea, the same island where John Williams was killed in 1839.

ALFRED DE VIBUL, sentenced by Mr. Justice Blackburn to be imprisoned for contempt of Court in refusing to give evidence on the trial of his father, Baron de Vibel, was released on Wednesday.

THE EXPRESS OF AUSTRIA recently paid a visit to the British line-of-battle ship Queen at Corfu, when she was most enthusiastically received by the officers and crew.

THE Official Gazette of Turin contains a Royal decree of the 8th ordering a general census of the kingdom of Italy to be taken simultaneously on the 31st of December of the present year.

A GENERAL REGIMENTAL ORDER has been issued to the effect that the Secretary of State for War has authorised the payment of one farthing per pound for all the shot fired from garrison and field guns which may be recovered and returned.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

UNLESS M. Paul B. Du Chaillu be a rank impostor, he must defend himself promptly and satisfactorily, for during the past week an opponent of strength and skill, a foeman worthy of his steel, has stepped into the arena. This time it is no question of scientific crochets, no pitting of the theories of Dr. Gray against Professor Owen, no British Museum *versus* Royal Society, but a plain matter of fact *exposé*, which, unless it be controverted, convicts M. Du Chaillu of uttering what we call, in plain English, a tissue of lies. The first hint of the approaching storm, the cloud no bigger than a man's hand, appeared in the *Athenæum* of Saturday, in the shape of a paragraph inquiring when the evidence of his good faith which M. Du Chaillu had promised seven months ago to procure from the Gaboon country was to be forthcoming. Letters, it was stated, had arrived in town from the Gaboon country last week, and people here who had read the book were naturally anxious to know what was thought of it there, where the adventures it described purported to have occurred. On Monday London was made thoroughly acquainted with Gaboon sentiments, *in re* Du Chaillu, and, though the letter conveying the elucidation appeared in that organ of mares nests, the *Advertiser*, and was signed with the jocularly dubious name of "Walker," there appears every reason to believe that not only was it written in good faith, but that it is strictly true. Mr. R. B. Walker has been a resident in the Gaboon country for ten years, and knew M. Du Chaillu personally. Seriatim, and in the most ruthless manner, he destroys the little traveller's assertions and ridicules his descriptions. Neither Mr. Walker himself, nor any of the travellers he has met, have ever seen human bones in the Far Country, as stated by Du C. Why does Du C. state that the gorilla is unattainable; does he not recollect one young female, called Seraphine, which lived docilely enough in Walker's factory? Du C.'s pretended knowledge of the native languages is all false; he "could scarcely speak half a dozen words correctly," and nearly all the Missongwe words used in his book are incorrect. The specimens were not prepared on the spot, but in New York. M. Du C. asserts that the engravings in his book were prepared from his own sketches; but Mr. Walker declares Du C. had no sketches when he left Gaboon, and told him he could not sketch. Mr. Walker gives various references for his own respectability, and winds up with a strong hint as to the darkness of M. Du Chaillu's commercial character, identifying him with a M. Paul Belford, and suggesting that Messrs. Oppenheim, of Paris, should say what they know of him, in matters of business. These gentlemen will probably take some notice of the suggestion; but it is a very pretty quarrel as it stands; and to sift the literary part of the question will be quite enough for us. There must be no shilly-shallying, no reticence now; if M. Du Chaillu has a character to save he must come forward and do battle. They will be but false friends who tell him to ignore the attack on account of the source whence it proceeds. There would seem reason to believe that the letter which appeared in the *Advertiser* was originally addressed to the *Times*, and refused publication there because they considered themselves in some degree pledged to M. Du Chaillu by their laudatory review of his book; but there are many people of weight in the literary and scientific worlds who are interested in the discussion, and the matter will not be allowed to drop until it has been thoroughly sifted.

The death of Earl Fortescue places another blue ribbon at the disposal of Lord Palmerston; and who will get the bauble is a question which will be extensively canvassed in aristocratic circles during the next few weeks. The late Earl had not been very prominent in the political world for some years, but when he was in the House of Commons as Lord Ebrington his name was often before the public. The noble Lord was a Whig, and whenever his party was in difficulty he was ever ready to interpose his *forte-scutum* for their defence. It was Lord Ebrington, it will be remembered, who, when in 1832 the Reform Bill was endangered by the carrying of Lord Lyndhurst's motion to postpone the consideration of the disfranchising clauses, moved an address to the Crown and carried it by a majority of eighty. The late Earl Fitzwilliam, then Lord Milton, upon that occasion openly confessed in the House of Commons that "when the taxgatherer called at his house he was requested to call again, as he (Lord Milton) was not quite sure that circumstances might not arise which would oblige him to resist the payment." Lord Ebrington did not openly go so far as this; but there can be no doubt that he was prepared for very extreme measures in support of the Government and the bill. In 1839 his Lordship was Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. The new Earl was formerly member for Middlesex, but was forced by ill-health to resign his seat. His general health is now, I believe, pretty good; but he is afflicted with a disease in the eyes which threatens a total loss of sight. The progenitor of the family was a knight of the body-guard of William the Conqueror at Hastings. His name was Sir Richard Forte, surnamed Escue, or "Knight of the Strong Shield;" hence the punning family motto—*Forte scutum salus duum*—"A strong shield is the safety of the leader."

Colonel North, being only a colonel of militia, of course has few adventures to speak of. Unlike Othello, he cannot boast

Of moving accidents by flood and field,
Of hairbreadth escapes, of imminent deadly breach,
Of being taken by the insolent foe.

Such things do not befall militia Colonels. He has, however, it seems, done the State some service, for, on passing through the Lobby of the House of Commons, soon after the Crimean War, he saw two private soldiers in uniform who wished to enter the gallery; but, according to the rules of the House, could not; whereupon the gallant Colonel went to Mr. Speaker, who, professing ignorance that a rule for the exclusion of soldiers existed, at once ordered that in future they should be admitted without let or hindrance. This was Colonel North's version of the story at the Thame Agricultural Society meeting last week when he returned thanks for the Army. But the story is not strictly correct. Soldiers were never excluded, but only soldiers in uniform. Nor can it be imagined for a moment that Lord Eversley, who was then Speaker, could have been ignorant of the rule, or why it was in existence? For everybody at all acquainted with the House and its history must know that soldiers in uniform had been rigorously excluded for centuries, and that the exclusion originated in the dread entertained by our forefathers lest their decision should be overruled by the presence of an armed soldiery. The same rule, I believe, was until lately in force in Courts of Justice. I know not whether it is now; but where elections for members of Parliament are going on it is well known that soldiers have strict orders not to appear. In country towns, I believe, the order is so rigorously enforced that militia depôts are marched away. What Colonel North did, then, was this, and no more—he obtained for soldiers, not the privilege of admission into the House, for that they had before, but the privilege of being present at a debate in uniform. And for this let him have due honour. They cannot, however, be admitted armed. Every soldier, foreign or native, is obliged to leave his arms at the foot of the stairs. I once saw a magnificent sabre, studded about the hilt with very costly precious stones, standing at the door, and upon inquiry I found that it belonged to an Indian Nawab, who, grand as he was, had been made to "stand and deliver" before he could be admitted.

"Old Henley," who also spoke at Thame, is not a soldier, and has no such achievement to boast of as that which his colleague placed in the forefront of his speech. All he could do was to show how arduous is the duty of a faithful member of Parliament, to express a hope that he had not been idle, and to promise diligence for the future. What the Oxfordshire farmers think of their senior representative I cannot say, but it is generally admitted that there is not a more devoted, industrious member in the House than "Old Henley," and in a certain way none more clever. His mission is not

to originate measures, but to criticise them. I do not suppose that he ever laid a bill of his own upon the table of the House in his life; but his criticisms of other people's measures are exhaustive—sometimes, I fear, not only of the faults of the measures but of the patience of the House.

What a jumble was that speech of Mr. Newdegate at the meeting of the Sparkenhoe Club! Can any mortal man understand it? Mr. Newdegate seems to shadow out the necessity for a return of the feudal system, when every man was attached to some clan—the tiller of the soil to the yeoman, the yeoman to the knight, and so on, up to the grand patriarch, the Sovereign. The opinion of Mr. Newdegate was characteristic. The club met at Bosworth, and the first association which was suggested by the name was the "meets" of the hounds, with a score or two of red-coats. Mr. Newdegate, in addition to being defender of the faith against Popery and Jesuitism, is a keen and enthusiastic hunter. In fact, he is a man of varied accomplishments; he is well up in theology, complete master of the Popish controversy, as devoutly religious as a Puritan, and yet can go across the country, and give the "View halloo" with any man in England.

If the views taken by the writer of a recent article in the *Times* be correct, a rise in the price of paper is inevitable, and the ruin of the English paper manufacturer is imminent. Another journalist states that there is not a paper manufacturer in London who will undertake to supply any newspaper establishment for six weeks after the beginning of the new year at the prices now paid. And yet in the face of all this the twopenny Radical Sunday journals, *Lloyd's* and *Keppell's*, reduce themselves to a penny, and only the *News of the World* retains its original price.

Should the price of paper really keep up, what will become of all the halfpenny blood-and-thunders now fluttering in back streets of choking watering-places? Where will Mariar find her literature or Elizar learn the manners of fashionable society, or Hann get a recipe for removing her freckles? Seriously speaking, however, there would not appear to be much reason for echoing the dismal jeremiads of the high-priced journalists; and, so long as straw and other convertible substances abound, the cheap press will maintain the sway it has so boldly and so reputably acquired.

Lounging in the esplanade at St. Leonards one evening last week I saw a schooner lying high and dry, or nearly so, on the beach. She had been floated up by the tide, and made fast by certain chain cables, hawsers, &c., as the manner is, there being no harbour at Hastings or St. Leonards. This was a collier from the North, and men were busy unloading her. In the twilight she looked a compact craft enough, and might be about 120 tons burden. Well, on the following evening, or it might be two evenings afterwards—for as you are aware loungers by the sea take but little note of time—I passed by the spot again, and then this was the sight I saw. Certain knee-timbers sticking up out of the shingle; a quantity of wood scattered on the beach; here a mast snapped in two; there a rudder; and, further on, a part of a ship's stern; and, on inquiry, I found that this was the wreck of the aforesaid schooner. She had been unloaded, and when the tide was at the flow again held by a stout hawser made fast to a windlass on shore; she was in the act of floating off when, at a critical moment, the hawser snapped, and the schooner, becoming unmanageable, was caught by the wind and the tide and dashed upon the beach broadside on, and in one hour, as I was told, reduced to what I saw—smashed as you might smash a walnut with the heel of your boot; and yet there was not much wind—not half a gale, as the sailors told me—neither was the sea very rough. Indeed, I could not have believed that such a sea could have made such a ruin as this in so short a time. The crew of course escaped; and one is happy to know that this accident does not involve much loss to any one; indeed, the sailors on the beach rejoiced and made merry over the catastrophe. "Loss!" said an old salt to me; "no, it won't be much loss. A gain, I should say. It'll save the owners the expense of breaking up. Betwixt you and I, sir, I'm glad she's gone; for, depend on't, if she hadn't been smashed she'd bin a coffin to half a dozen men before the spring." "What, she was in bad condition, then?" I said. "Bad!"—but here I must cease to report the *ipseissima verba* of my friend. Suffice it to say that his verdict was that she ought long since to have been consigned to a much deeper gulf than the British Channel; and on inquiry I found that this verdict was agreed to by most of the nautical men alongshore. In my innocence I had supposed that all ships are subjected to a rigorous inspection by a surveyor from the Board of Trade; but I find that it is not so; passenger-ships are inspected, but not mere traders. If sailors choose to embark in a sieve, like the witch in "Macbeth," they are at liberty to do so. But you will probably say, "Surely the underwriters will not insure such rotten craft." The answer to this is these coasters, as a rule, are not insured. The owners are grim political economists, and have discovered that it answers better to work their vessels long after any one would insure them than to pay an annual premium.

The clubs are but a solitary refuge even for a lounge at present, and yet London keeps alive, and purveyors to the public amusement put forth attractive novelties. The weather, too, is cooling rapidly, so that it becomes possible to sit even in the pit of a theatre without coming out limp and exhausted. On Tuesday a festival was held at the Crystal Palace for the benefit of Mr. Strange, and as nearly all the attainable amusements were provided for the usual admission fee of a shilling, it is scarcely surprising to learn that nearly 25,000 people assembled. The attractions comprised, besides the great fountains and a performance by the Glee and Madrigal Union, the feats of "the inimitable Mackey" and Mr. Blondin. It must have been late before many of the visitors reached the London terminus, to judge by the crowd which waited for the up-trains even after dark.

The appearance of a new comic periodical may or should have a very natural connection with the amusement of the public, and the neighbourhood of Fleet-street on Wednesday morning was resonant of the cry of newsboys who offered this week's *Fun* for a penny. Judging from former examples, I may remark that one novelty in this new venture, of which one of our prominent burlesque writers is said to be the editor, is that it contains no abuse of *Punch*. The illustrations are all more or less weak—the page engraving being certainly the worst of the batch.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

The fine weather continuing, Mr. E. T. Smith's harvest at Cremorne is not yet fully reaped. He has had an extraordinarily successful season, and, considering how late it was when he entered upon the management, the pecuniary result must be very satisfactory. His trump-card has been the "female Blondin," whose performances have attracted such crowds, not merely to the gardens but to the neighbourhood, that Chelsea is said to have been on two occasions "drunk out"—absolutely beerless for twenty-four hours! Meantime, autumn is approaching, and "what will poor Robin (or Mr. E. T. Smith) do then?" He will probably not follow the example of the bird in the ballad and "hide his head under his wing," but will be affield with some fresh speculation.

It is uncertain when DRURY LANE will open; some say with Mr. G. V. Brooke, in tragedy, on the 10th of October; but Mr. Brooke is reported to be ill in Dublin, and, moreover, to have quarrelled with the Drury Lane proprietor. Some say English Opera, under Dr. Pech, will again be tried. Mr. and Mrs. Kean are engaged in February, and the pantomime is sure to float the great "impresario" over the winter.

Miss Louisa Kealey will succeed next season from the Olympic Company.

THE ADELPHI opens on Monday with the undying and undrownable "Colleen Bawn," but Mr. Boucicault's next best card, "The Octoroon," with its slave-sale and Yankee "sensational" bits, is in rehearsal.

PORTLAND BREAKWATER.

THE *Times*, in a leading article, thus notices the completion of the great breakwater at Portland:—

A breakwater is nothing but a wall built in the sea, resting on the bottom, and rising above the waves. This wall, moreover, builds itself—that is to say, the stones of which it is composed shake themselves into their places, settle themselves by their own weight, and remain fixed and compact from the operation of the same cause. Nothing more, therefore, is required than to pitch a sufficient number of stones into the sea at the right place. So far the work seems even easier than that of building the dry walls which serve for hedges in our northern counties; but the difficulties soon begin. In the first place the wall, which has to withstand the shock of the waves at their very highest, is necessarily of enormous thickness. No land wall, however strong, can give any idea of the dimensions of walls built beneath the sea. A hole bored through the Portland wall would represent a tunnel nearly 100 yards long, for the base of this breakwater is actually 300ft. wide. The height of the wall, again, is 100ft., and its length upwards of a mile and a half. On land such a pile would look like a little mountain ridge, and would form, indeed, quite a respectable chain of hills in some of our flat counties. Still, as the stone in this case was close at hand, and in quantity abundant enough even for such a work, the difficulty may be thought not very serious. But how are these stones to be carried to the sea and dropped into it? Close to the shore it may be all very easy; but how, when the material has to be carried out for half a mile, or a mile, as the work extends? That is the part of the process which taxes the engineer. As the stone is quarried from a height above the sea level it will run down a tramway by its own weight, and can be readily turned into the sea at any given point; but how is the tramway itself to be made? Given a good tramway, and the rest was easy. The convicts dug the stone and loaded the waggon, the waggon ran smoothly along the inclined plane, and when they came to the end of their course were made to "topple" over their cargoes into the sea. The one difficulty was the tramway itself, which was neither more nor less than a railway built on piles and running out to sea like a pier. Building it was like building a huge scaffolding under water. The timbers were required to be of immense strength, and waterproof besides, and the tramway had to grow as the breakwater grew, yard by yard. All this, however, has been accomplished, and five million tons of stone have been dropped scientifically into the sea. The result is a great artificial reef, projecting many feet above the water, and effectually securing the harbour against the onset of the waves.

Hitherto we have been only fighting against nature, but we are now preparing to contend with man. At one extremity of this breakwater will stand a fort of the most extraordinary character. It will be at once the strongest and most powerful fort of its kind in this country. That much is decided; but it is scarcely possible at present to decide more, for the simple reason that nobody can tell what new discoveries in the sciences of attack and defence a few years or a few months may bring about. Up to a certain height above the sea the fort will be of granite and all but entirely solid. Above this it may be all granite still, or granite with iron facings, or all iron. Similarly, as regards the armament, it is arranged that the fort shall mount sixty guns, and that these guns shall be the heaviest and most powerful known; but whether they will be 100-pounders or 500-pounders depends upon the development which Sir William Armstrong and his colleagues may by that time have given to the manufacture of artillery. Two classes of inventors are now running a race against each other. Our ironmasters are forging impenetrable plates, and their rivals are devising irresistible guns. Nobody can say which will win, but the great fort at Portland will represent and exemplify the resources of both alike.

We observed that the expense of the Portland Breakwater has been comparatively moderate. It has cost less than a million of money, which is within the latest estimate, and all the most expensive work is now done.

PLYMOUTH ELECTION.—The Conservatives of Plymouth are still unable to procure a candidate willing to contest the borough on their behalf. Mr. Ralph Earle, ex-member for Berwick, was at one time talked of; then Mr. Acland was mentioned; next the Mayor of Liverpool, Mr. S. R. Groves, was announced as the coming man; but all these gentlemen, from some cause or other, have declined to enter the arena, if, indeed, there ever was any serious intention that they should do so. The last name mentioned is that of Captain Drummond Hay, but whether or not that gallant gentleman will come to the rescue, is, up to the hour at which we write, uncertain. Meanwhile, Mr. Morrison, who now appears to have the field to himself on the Liberal side, is actively engaged in canvassing the electors, and, as stated by his friends, is meeting with very encouraging assurances of support.

THE DRAWBACK ON PAPER.—In consequence of a communication from the Commissioners of Inland Revenue, to the effect that stationers, who are also printers, would not be entitled to the drawback on the 1st of October next on the stocks held by them, the effect of which, if carried out, would exclude the greater portion of the trade from the advantages of the drawback, Mr. George Chater, the chairman of the London Association of Wholesale Stationers, has, on behalf of the trade, had an interview with the authorities at Somerset House, and he has been given to understand that they have decided that any *bond fide* stationer, whether printer or not, will be entitled to the drawback, and that directions to that effect will be issued to the Government officers, authorising them to allow the same. The satisfactory nature of this determination on behalf of the Commissioners renders any further proceedings unnecessary in regard to the repeal of the paper duty.

THE NEW MINUTE ON EDUCATION.—The President of the Education Commission has tossed a hornet's nest about his ears. His new minute of education has arrayed all classes in opposition to it. The schoolmasters have met and protested against the injury it would inflict on their pecuniary interests; the clergy, who have also held a meeting on the subject, see in it a covert attack on the religious education of the country; and many influential persons who do not concur in either of these views still resent it as a breach of the engagement made by Mr. Lowe, that no material change in the system would be made without first obtaining the consent of Parliament. The columns of the daily papers are filled with letters on the subject. Meetings are everywhere being held, and a regular storm of agitation appears to burst upon the unlucky head of the Education Minister.

THE LONDON FIRE BRIGADE.—On Saturday Captain Shaw, late chief constable and superintendent of the fire police at Belfast, entered upon his duties as successor to the late Mr. James Braidwood, superintendent of the London Fire Brigade. Several changes have been made among the officers of the brigade; but all appointments are only of a temporary nature, as it is believed that the Government contemplate bringing forward a measure in the course of next Session of Parliament for establishing a fire police in connection with the metropolitan police. Sir Richard Mayne has prepared a list of all the parochial parish engines in the metropolis and its suburbs, and the condition they are in, and other important information relative to the system, how they are managed, &c. In the event of this measure being sanctioned, the management of the present fire brigade will be handed over to the Police Commissioners.

THE METROPOLITAN SILK WEAVERS.—A meeting of persons engaged in this branch of industry was held on Friday evening last, in reference to a proposed reduction of wages in the velvet branch of the business, when the following resolution was agreed to:—"That, having heard of a most uncalculated and unprecedented reduction of wages just made by some of the masters in the velvet branch of the silk trade in Spitalfields, this meeting, consisting of workmen in all branches of the silk trade, is determined, when the opportunity arrives, to assist the velvet weavers to drive as hard a bargain with their employers as the employers are now driving with them." The wages in this department of industry are already at a very low ebb, and it will be a sad thing indeed if they must be still further reduced.

INTERESTING CONDUCT OF MR. McFARLANE, MASTER, R.N.—On the 29th of July a boat-woman, named Campbell, fell overboard from the Isis, store ship, at Sierra Leone. The tide was running with great rapidity, and the river is well known to be swarming with sharks. Campbell, having on an oilskin coat and leggings, was unable to use any exertion to save herself; and, although a boat was sent out and alongside and forty or fifty men were looking on, all seemed to have lost their presence of mind. At this crisis Mr. McFarlane gallantly advanced to the rescue. Ordering some gratings to be thrown into the water, he jumped overboard and swam towards the man; but before he could reach him he had disappeared. A cry from on board said, "He is just under you," upon which Mr. McFarlane dived and succeeded in catching hold of the collar of Campbell's coat, and supported him until a boat arrived to their assistance. The poor man was insensible when taken on board the ship; but animation was at length restored, and he is now on board the Archer, on his way to England. This is the eighth life which Mr. McFarlane has saved from drowning, but his patient humanity has been hitherto unnoticed.—*United Service Gazette*.

BAT-CHASE FOR £200.—The long-pending contest between George Everett, of Greenwich, and George Hamerton, of Isling top, was decided on Thursday afternoon, in cutters, over the long metropolitan course—viz., Putney A. product-bridge to the ship at Mortlake. At the word "Off," Hamerton dashed away with a lead of half a length, which he maintained to Simmons's, where Everett came up and passed him, and at Craven Cottage was leading by a length. He soon soon afterwards took his opponent's water, and at Hammersmith-bridge was leading by three lengths, ultimately winning in the winner by about six lengths.



"THE ARAB HOUSE-MERCHANT." — FROM A SKETCH BY THE LATE CAPTAIN G. F. ATKINSON.



THE TEMPLE CHURCH AS SEEN SINCE THE DEMOLITION OF THE SURROUNDING BUILDINGS.

THE ARAB HORSE MERCHANT OF INDIA.

PERHAPS, with the exception of the officers of the British Army in England, no army is better mounted than the Anglo-Indian, which is no doubt attributable to the innate love of horseflesh which characterises an Englishman, and to the opportunities afforded him of procuring horses of the best breeds that the world can produce. Not only are valuable thoroughbred English horses regularly imported both by the Government and by individuals, but the best specimens from the Cape, Australia, New South Wales, Van Diemen's Land, and other countries are brought to the country; but, above all, a vast number of the best Arab horses are incessantly flowing in to stock the market and improve the studs. The Arab merchant finds in it a profitable speculation, for the British officer on "Indian pay and allowances" is perfectly willing to pay high prices, and the consequence is that £100 is readily given for a fresh young Arab that probably at Tattersall's would not fetch five and twenty pounds; not that the latter is its real value, but the worth of an Arab is only known to those whose experience enables them to appreciate its good qualities. To a London dealer the very best appears but a handsome pony; but the old officer knows that the endurance, the stamina, the blood, the gentleness, the keeping up of condition under the most trying circumstances of the pure Arabian, cannot be surpassed by any other horse; and that even the strength, for the small size, is comparatively astounding, so much so that the standard height for a military charger to carry a soldier with all his arms and trappings is but 14 hands 2 inches; and it was found in the long campaign in Afghanistan that the small high-caste Arabs stood fatigue far better than the best English horses in the army.

The two best markets in India are at Bombay and Calcutta, at which ports the horses are landed from the crazy native vessels in which they are brought down the Persian Gulf. To see these noble creatures in a state of the greatest filth, and with their ribs staring through their sides, any one but the connoisseur would reject shipload after shipload as batches of worthless rips; but see them once landed—see them mounted! and now, sniffing the morning breeze, with head and tail erect, nostril dilated, and fire beaming from the eye; mark the graceful action of the noble steed as he bounds along, flashing like a meteor across the plain!

From Bombay and Calcutta the merchants send them to Northern India by easy marches of about twenty miles a day, each horse having its separate rider. In the beginning of the cold weather, or, rather, immediately after the breaking up of the rains, they commence their march, and reach the principal military stations in the north-west in the cold weather, when they are much looked for, the coming of any well-known merchant being an event of considerable anticipation and longing. At Agra, Delhi, Meerut, Cawnpore, Lucknow, and other chief places, a lengthened sojourn is generally made, as the number sold is often very large, and the merchant has to wait the arrival of fresh batches, which he writes for as required.

The merchant always takes up his position near the race-course, which is usually situated to the east or rear of the cantonments, and where he has the advantage of being near the native bazaar. It is often by a "tope," or clump of trees, under which he pitches his own rude tent; but no shelter is ever thought of for the horses, who, inured from their birth to constant exposure to the weather, would only suffer in health from being pampered with the luxuries of shade or covering. Their clothing consists of a thickly-wadded blanket, made of black stuff, padded with a thin layer of cotton, and edged with a strong kind of tape; the portion which covering chest is all in one, and is fastened by strings. This wadded blanket has the advantage of keeping off the cold at night and of being impervious to wet, is also a repellent of the heat. A few merchants have adopted the English hood, which they give to their more valuable horses; but the rough blanket, fastened on by a rude girth, is the almost invariable clothing given to Arabs by their native owners. When picketed in camp, they are formed either in lines facing each other, or more generally in a circle, and the highest-priced ones stand at the head. A couple of pegs driven into the ground right and left of the head are what the head-ropes are attached to; while, to prevent the animal from shifting his position, to his heels are also fastened ropes, which are attached to a peg inserted some five or six yards to the rear. A padded leather strap encircles each fetlock, and is secured by light thongs. Thus the injury occasioned by the friction of ropes on the animal's legs is avoided. This is the style invariably adopted in India, even by Europeans, except when a horse is kept in a loose box.

If London dealers are acute in their transactions, the Arab merchant is not one whit behind him; and it is a well-known fact that scarcely any European can effect a bargain with them without the intermediation of some third party, who must be a native. The difficulty, however, is to ascertain how much in excess of what he really would be glad to take the merchant is asking. The Arab horses are generally quite sound, for the merchant is well aware that

veterinary surgeons would detect any want of soundness at once, and therefore it is not worth his while to bring from such a distance any but what could pass examination: in this differing from English dealers, by whom unsoundness is tried to be palmed off. The difficulty in the negotiation being the subject of price, a solemn affair is made of it, one too weighty to be uttered in words; and the usual custom is for the parties in consultation to hold each other's hand and to press the different joints, as indicative of the different quantities, fingers representing thousands and parts of fingers hundreds. In this silent manner the transaction is generally accomplished.

The price usually paid in the north-west for a high caste Arab of the largest size, say 14 hands 3½ in., or it may occasionally be 15, varies from £200 to £300, according to substance and beauty; others adapted for the turf, that have been tried and timed in their running, though never run on a racecourse, and therefore still called "maidens," fetch any fancy prices, even up to £500; but the average price of a good Arab of about 14 hands 3 in. fit as a charger for a twelve-stone weight, would be about £160; while lighter ones of 14 hands 2 in., adapted to nine or ten stone, cost about £80. Any lower price indicates a lower caste of horses. Some of our readers may remem-

much improve the whole aspect of the place. It is to be regretted that in making these alterations it has been necessary to remove the houses which were associated in such an interesting manner with Johnson and Goldsmith. The name of Johnson's Buildings has, however, been preserved on the new block of chambers raised on the site of the house in which the Doctor for some time lived; and in the little burial-place of the Temple Church a monument has been placed over the spot in which some say Oliver Goldsmith is buried. We have, however, very good authority for believing that the kindly-hearted poet's remains lie considerably to the north of the memorial in question.

We know of no more agreeable contrast than in the hot summer weather to wander from the roar, tumult, and bustle of Fleet-street into the quiet nooks in the Temple, through the still courts and avenues, which seem as lonely and retired as if they were far away from so much business. In Elm-court, Plumtree-court, and several other parts of this locality, the massive window-frames, the quaint-looking doorways; the dark, heavy staircases; steep roofs, and substantial but grimy-looking brickwork; the sundials; the carved heraldic devices of the Inner and Middle Temples; the trees, which,

by the apposition of their greenery to the deep red tints of the buildings, look pleasant to the eye; and the old-fashioned wig-shops, &c., with here and there a peep of the river seen over the gardens, form pictures which are specially pleasing in contrast with the din, and dust, and bustle of Fleet-street and the Strand, to which the Temple is so near, and yet from which it and its associations so greatly differ.

The fountain, although not so agreeable to the eye as it might be made, has a pleasing sound; and the surrounding trees look so fresh that one can scarcely think that they grow in the centre of a vast population. The transparent light through the stained windows of the old hall, which fortunately escaped the ravages of the great fire, is an interesting feature; and those who like such matters, should endeavour to get a peep at the interior, and see the fine wood roof, the armorial bearings of several generations of famous lawyers, the colossal picture of Charles I. on horseback by Vandyck, the minstrel's gallery, &c. Here Queen Elizabeth, Charles II., and other distinguished personages have been entertained at Christmas; the "Lord of Misrule" has often held his frolicsome court within those walls; and at holiday times grave Judges might have been seen in their wigs and robes performing a solemn dance around the fire which blazed upon the circular hearth below the lantern, which still remains.

There are in the opening to the Temple nearest to Temple-bar some houses which, like the Hall, the Norman Church, and the entrance opposite Chancery-lane, escaped the great conflagration of 1666. There seem, however, to be no other buildings which take us back to Shakespeare's days, though there is in the gardens a venerable tree, now stripped of leaves, the trunk black and decayed, but which is most carefully preserved from damage, which is certainly as old as the time when the great poet, in all probability, often embarked at the Temple-stairs on his way to the theatre at Bankside. Some give this, the oldest of all the London trees, an antiquity as great as the time when tradition states that the red and white roses, which became the badges of the houses of York and Lancaster, were gathered here. It is curious to note that it is clear that roses of both those colours must have been commonly grown in these gardens in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, or else Shakespeare would not have referred to them so

particularly. To come, however, to the church, which is one of the most perfect examples of the transition of the Norman to the Early English architecture, it may be worth while to mention that the order of the Brethren of the Temple of Solomon at Jerusalem, commonly called the Templars, began in the year 1118. They were instituted to take care of the pilgrims who came to the Holy Land. Their habit was white, with a red cross on the shoulder. A portion of this body is supposed to have made its way to England in the reign of Stephen. Their first seat was in the old Temple, near what is now Southampton-buildings, Holborn. They removed to the new Temple, near Fleet-street, in 1185. Here they flourished until the suppression of the order by Pope Clement V. This house was first granted by Edward II., in 1313, to Aymer de Valence, Earl of Pembroke. At his death it was usurped by Hugh Despenser, and then Edward III. gave it to the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem, who leased it to the students of the common law, whose property it still continues.

The church was built at the same time with the original religious house (and dedicated in 1185 to the Virgin Mary), in imitation of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre at Jerusalem, which is supposed to have been built of a round form, common to most of the churches belonging to the preceptories of this order among us. From the style, as well as form, it is clear that this building has remained without any material alteration for nearly 700 years. A few years ago the interior was very skilfully restored, at a cost of upwards of £80,000. The tombs and effigies of the Templars who are buried here have also



"DARK AND FAIR"—(FROM A PICTURE BY L. J. POTT.)

ber that in 1847 or 1848 an Arab horse that had highly distinguished himself on the Indian turf, on the Madras side, was entered and ran for the Gold Cup at Ascot against Hero and some others of the best English horses, and because he was distanced it was concluded that the best Arab is vastly inferior to the English; but the trial was not a fair one. To get the utmost advantage of a "feather-weight" which the owner was allowed, he put a child on an impetuous high-blooded courser. The result was that the Arab went off at his utmost speed, and was soon half a mile ahead; while the other jockeys, knowing a two-mile course lay before them, staid their running, which the helpless child was unable to do. If the Arab, instead of four stone, had had six or even seven stone upon him, in the shape of an able and experienced jockey, the tale might have been very different. But in such a trying climate as that of India, the English horse cannot compete with the Arab, which retains its vigour in heat or cold; and for this reason we consider that, for a light weight, no horse in the world can be compared to the thoroughbred Arabian.

THE TEMPLE CHURCH.

GREAT changes have been already made and are still in progress within the ancient precincts of the Temple—old buildings are giving place to new; a library of much architectural beauty, both as regards the exterior and interior design, has recently been erected, and several openings made which will be very beneficial to health, and will also

been cared for and so preserved that they are likely to last for many centuries to come. There are one or two other monuments in the body of the church; but above, in the circular portion, is a space which is well worthy of careful examination. From here, through circular-headed arches, fine views of the interlaced and other ornamentation of the church may be obtained; and here are placed numerous monuments of several dates which have been shifted from the choir and other parts of the building. These monuments, which are very picturesque, have been shifted to this place, where they are seen by few, in order to give the interior as much as possible its original appearance. The good taste of this is doubtful, for if they had been allowed to remain in their places, they would have helped to break the bare and somewhat monotonous appearance of the pillars and wall-spaces. Few would wish to see the monuments in Westminster Abbey taken away, for, besides their association with many worthies, they form a sort of record of the different stages of English monumental and architectural art.

By the removal of some buildings which almost buried the exterior view of the south from sight, we have now an opportunity of noticing the peculiarities of this ancient work. Until within the last few weeks, the richly-decorated western porch and doorway were nearly hidden by buildings, and the chief portion of the north was as unfortunately situated. Now, however, the houses have been removed, and the whole of the north side, with the bell-turret, &c., is opened to view; and to those acquainted with the church, our engraving will show how very great an improvement has been made, and how creditable the alteration is to the Benchers of both the Inner and Middle Temple, who are joint custodians of this venerable church.

"DARK AND FAIR."

THERE are very few gipsies left in England, for their old haunts have been so remorselessly invaded by railway contractors and timber-merchants that "life under the greenwood tree" has almost become a condition of the past. Every year we seem to hear less and less of the strange people about whom Mr. George Borrow has written with so much knowledge. Periodically we hear of the death of some gipsy king or queen in remote villages, and about two years ago Ann Lee, who was really the so-called queen of the English gipsies—her family having, we believe, reigned for ages—died at Leyton poorhouse, after having been supported in her old age by numerous ladies of the neighbourhood.

Here and there, however, the shapely form of some gipsy woman emerges from a green country lane, and, her bright beadlike eye fixing on the most promising of a party who may be found on some pleasure jaunt, she craves that little piece of silver, in exchange for which certain hidden mysteries of the future shall be revealed.

It is some such occasion as this which is represented in our illustration; and the fair young aspirant after the secrets of futurity, in spite of her scepticism, feels all the awe attendant upon being drawn aside to hear the whispered warnings about the "two young men," "the journey," "the present," "the unpleasant surprise," and "the deceitful friend," which generally forms the stock of information which the dark sybil imparts to her more favoured clients.

CONCERTS.

MR. ALFRED MELLON'S concerts at Covent Garden have entered their final week, and a night is given to each of the great composers. On Wednesday Beethoven took his benefit—if we may thus express the fact that Beethoven's music was performed with a correctness and fine feeling which few orchestras are capable of rendering. The programme opened with the Pastoral Symphony, which, without exaggeration, we may declare to have been played quite perfectly throughout—the allegro, with its delightful rustic dance, being given with especial finish and delicacy. The aria, "In questa Tomba," was but indifferently sung by Mdme. Laura Baxter; and the pianoforte concerto in E flat was, in the hands of Miss Julia Woolf, so very far below the playing of Miss Arabella Goddard as instantly and forcibly to provoke the comparison. An attempt at an encore was made by an isolated section of the audience, and failed very signally. Mr. Weiss, who appeared to be suffering under hoarseness, made but little effect in the song "Gold, gold," from "Fidelio;" but in the second and miscellaneous division of the concert he recovered his voice sufficiently to do full justice to Shield's song, "The Wolf." The noble overture "Egmont," which concluded the first part, was played with the precision which has to be noted as often as Mr. Mellon's band is spoken of. A solo on the oboe from "La Sonnambula" opened the second portion of the evening's entertainment. It was played by M. Lavigne, with extraordinary power and skill. In the course of the concert several solo players distinguished themselves in brilliant fashion. Mr. Pratten on the flute, Mr. Hughes on the ophicleide, Mr. H. Hill on the violin, and Mr. G. Collins on the violoncello, were, one and all excellent. Whatever Mr. Levy may be in time, he is now, with all his strength of lung and facility in bravura passages, a long, long way from the ideal of a König or a Duhem. The cornet-pistons is an instrument the tone of which becomes coarse if it be not controlled with practised power and the nicest judgment and taste. The vocalisation of Mdme. Florence Lancia was also one of the features of the second part. She sang the cavatina, "Ah, forse e lui," and was encored, by no means deservedly, as we think. Her singing of Mr. Mellon's graceful air, "Cupid's Eyes," was a far more praiseworthy performance, and really merited, as it obtained, the honour of a re-demand.

Another choral festival of metropolitan schools, under the direction of Mr. G. W. Martin, was given at the Crystal Palace on Wednesday afternoon. It was divided into two parts, the one sacred and the other secular. The children were reinforced by a strong corps of tenors and basses, and got through some rather trying music with much credit. The solo passages were sung by Miss Spiller, a young lady with a sweet soprano voice and a good musical knowledge, though deficient in the power necessary to give due emphasis to the declamatory music of Handel. For some reason, the only piece of Mozart named in the programme was omitted in the performance. It is a very delightful thing to notice the spread of music as an ingredient in early education. Fifteen or twenty years ago such a gathering as that which took place at the Crystal Palace on Wednesday, and which is no uncommon occurrence there, would have been simply impossible. But there is yet room for improvement. The train which bore us back to the Victoria station contained large numbers of these little warblers, who continued their warbling while in transitu. But we must take exception to the circumstance of their singing invariably in unison. Any company of German children, under similar circumstances, would have kept the four voices distinct, whatever tune they might have chanted.

A PLANET LOST AND FOUND AGAIN.—M. Goldschmidt having discovered the planet Daphne on the 22nd of May, 1856, soon lost sight of it, and looked for it in vain during the summer of 1857; but on the 9th of September of that year he found a planet which at first he mistook for Daphne, because it was very near the spot which calculation had pointed out for that body. This new planet was called Pseudo-Daphne, and also disappeared. M. Goldschmidt has now written to the Academy of Sciences to announce that, by the aid of Dr. Luther's hypothetical ephemerides and Dr. Hencke's map, he has succeeded in finding Pseudo-Daphne again, after a search of three months.

THE POST OFFICE SAVINGS-BANKS.—The amount of business transacted on Monday at the Post Office Savings-banks far exceeded the most sanguine expectations of those who arranged the details of the scheme, a very large number of persons, male and female, of all ages and classes, having become depositors. The money collected has already been transferred to the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt for investment according to law.

DISASTER TO THE GREAT EASTERN.

The Great Ship has met with a sad disaster, and been compelled to put back to Cork harbour seriously damaged. She brought up outside the harbour on Tuesday evening, and has been moored about a mile from the lighthouse. From the extent of the damage she has sustained it will be some time before she can again proceed to sea. This unhappy event is exceedingly to be regretted, as, after the many mishaps which the Great Eastern has suffered, her late successful voyages had begun to reinstate her in public confidence, and to afford the proprietors a hope of being reimbursed for their immense expenditure. This hope is again dissipated—at least for the present; and the disappointment is all the greater from the fact that the voyage upon which the ship had started promised to be a very satisfactory one. She left Liverpool on the 14th instant with 400 passengers and a large general cargo, a complement both of passengers and freight considerably larger, indeed, than she has carried on any previous voyage, arising from the feeling of confidence and security that had been established by her previous successful voyages. On the present occasion every berth was taken, there being 400 passengers, including several families, on board. Between 100 and 200 passengers occupied the berths in the principal cabin, saloons, and state rooms, at passage rates of from £20 to £25, and the remainder of the passengers occupied the intermediate and steerage cabins at from £7 to £10 respectively. All went well till, on Thursday week, as she was under full steam and sail, she encountered a terrific gale about 280 miles to the west of Cape Clear, which swept away her paddles. Nor was this the only damage, for at the same time the top of the rudder-post, a bar of iron of immense size, being ten inches in diameter, was wrenched away, so that the vessel was not able to answer her helm. Her steering gear was also shattered and gone, so that she lay like a huge log in the trough of the sea from Thursday evening until two o'clock on Sunday, her bulwarks almost touching the sea furrows, and rolling and pitching about, the passengers expecting that she would every moment go down, and offering up prayers for their deliverance. The rocking and rolling of the vessel displaced and destroyed the furniture of the cabin and saloons, throwing the passengers pell-mell about the cabin. Everything that occupied the upper deck was washed away, and a large part of the passengers' luggage was destroyed; while between twenty and thirty of those who were on board, including several ladies, were bruised and maimed. No particulars of their names or of the precise injuries they have received have as yet come to hand, nor does it yet appear that any of the officers or crew were lost. The passengers are all safe. One of the cowsheds, with two cows in it, was washed into the ladies' cabin, and caused indescribable confusion.

On Sunday evening, after two days' suspense, a temporary steering gear was fitted up, and the disabled vessel made for Cork harbour, running with her screw nine knots an hour. Her flag of distress was sighted at about three o'clock in the afternoon off the Old Head of Kinsale, and her Majesty's ship Advice at once steamed out to her assistance, and towed her to within one mile of the lighthouse off Cork harbour by about nine o'clock. Her passengers disembarked at that harbour. She will, on clearing out, be towed forthwith to Liverpool, where she will be laid upon the gridiron and repaired. The principal directors and officers of the company on Wednesday started for Cork and Liverpool with a view of instituting a rigid inquiry into the causes of the catastrophe, and telegraphed special instructions to their agents at the respective ports.

VIOLENT GALE.—SERIOUS CASUALTIES AT SEA.

DURING Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday last week, a violent gale visited the coast near Liverpool, and also the coast of Ireland, and was felt with especial severity in the Channel. From Liverpool the accounts of the damage done to shipping are rather serious, the mischief having extended far down the channel. The ship Kennard, bound from Liverpool to Arrichat, was towed back on Sunday from Morcombe Bay, dismasted. The Hope, bound from Liverpool to Toulon, is ashore at Comlyn, near Holyhead; the Active, bound to Havre, and the Providence, from Barrow to Newport, have also put into Holyhead. The Conqueror, which sailed on the 13th for Rangoon, put back on Sunday with foremast sprung; and the Great Northern, after loss of anchors, chain, &c., much strained.

On the Welsh coast the gale was felt with great severity. Crowds of vessels, principally of small tonnage, ran to that harbour for protection, filling the enclosed area to a dangerous extent, and, failing of entrance, casting anchor in the roadstead, dangerous at once to themselves, as being exposed to all the risk of a lee shore, and to the incoming and outgoing mail, express, and cargo steamers, passing to and from Ireland. The first casualty reported occurred some twenty miles west of Holyhead, where four men were picked off with great difficulty by the Scotia, express Holyhead and Chester Railway steamer, from a schooner called the Providence. The men when taken on board—they being in a very exhausted condition—stated that the schooner, of which they formed the crew, was about to founder in the gale, being heavily laden with iron ore. The next casualty occurred at midnight on Friday, owing, it is stated, to the crowded state of the harbour of Holyhead, and to the fact that the vessels in question carried no lights. The steamer Admiral Moorsom, from the North Wall, Dublin, to Holyhead, ran down a sloop, named the Alma, and sank her, a man and a boy being immediately drowned, a third escaping, the three having formed the crew of the unfortunate vessel. A schooner was at the same moment run into, her bowsprit and outwater being carried away; but, happily, in this case no loss of life occurred. All incoming steamers were detained through the violence of the gale and the heaviness of the sea in the Channel. The Munster arrived at eight a.m. on Saturday, the incoming mail on the preceding evening being kept out till seven p.m., the detention in some measure, however, arising from the difficulty of getting clear of the crowds of shipping at Holyhead.

Along the west coast of Ireland the gales have been of unusual violence, and have been attended with considerable loss both of life and property. The Galway papers mention disasters to shipping off the Aran Isles, and in one instance apprehensions have been excited respecting the fate of a barque seen in great distress. No person was seen on board, and it is supposed the crew had either abandoned the vessel or had been washed into the sea. The Galway Express says that a gun-boat had proceeded to the place on Saturday morning in order to rescue the crew if they still survived.

Mr. Thomas G. Butler, in a letter to the *Carlisle Sentinel*, describes an extraordinary phenomenon which he witnessed in Connemara. About four o'clock on the 11th an awfully-black cloud appeared from the south-west, and an hour later a sudden gust of wind came "with a noise like suppressed thunder," when the water in a small river was raised several feet in the air, leaving the bed almost dry; calves which were grazing near it were carried off several hundred yards, till stopped by the road wall. Some haystacks were caught up and carried away in the same manner; the stacks in an outfield were all either laid prostrate or carried off to a great distance. The hurricane swept on and plunged into an inlet of the sea, which instantly rose hundreds of feet, dashing itself with great violence on the opposite shore. This extraordinary tornado came from south to north.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRES.—London still continues to be the scene of serious fires. Besides several conflagrations of more or less importance during the week, two disastrous fires took place on Wednesday. One, attended with fatal consequences to a whole family, occurred in Bethnal-green. The house was let out to a number of poor families, and the fire broke out on the ground floor, where the father, mother, and one of the children were dreadfully, and it is feared fatally, burned. Two other children were consumed in the flames. The inmates of the higher rooms managed to escape, and there is much reason to fear that the intoxication of the parents was the cause both of the fire and its fatal consequences. The other fire, which involved the destruction of a large amount of property, but from which, happily, no injury to life occurred, took place at Clapham.

PRESERVATION OF LIFE FROM SHIPWRECK.—The Board of Trade, in conjunction, we believe, with the Admiralty, have decided to supply the crews of coastguard stations on exposed parts of the shores of the United Kingdom with cork life-boats, on the same plan as those provided by the National Life-boat Institution to its crews. The men of this important branch of the public service, who have so often risked their lives in attempts to succour shipwrecked persons, will, it may be hoped, be thus enabled to perform still more efficacious service when provided with this means of safety to themselves. We are informed that at certain stations, where deemed necessary, they will be provided for use in the coastguard boats, and that at other stations two belts, with small buoyant lines attached, will be allowed, for the purpose of rushing into the surf to the rescue of drowning persons.

AN ADVENTURE WITH WOLVES IN RUSSIA.

A RECENT writer in a popular periodical gives the following stirring account of an adventure with wolves which befell him in the district of Taroslav, while making a sledge journey during a tour on the Volga:—

The driver sent the blood dancing through my veins by the alarming cry of "Volka! volka!"—"Wolves! wolves!" I sprang from my seat, and, looking ahead, saw six great, gaunt, and (no doubt) hungry wolves sitting exactly in our way, at the distance of about a hundred yards or less. Our horses had huddled themselves together, trembling in every limb, and refused to stir. We shouted and bawled, but the wolves also refused to stir. My fat friend, gathering a large handful of hay from the sledge bottom, rolled it into the form of a ball and handed it to me, saying, "Match." I understood him at once. The driver managed, by awful lashing and no-noing, to get the horses on, until we came within a short distance of our enemies. By this time I had succeeded in setting fire to the ball of hay, and just as it began to blaze out well I threw it in among them. It worked like a charm. Instantly the wretches parted, three on each side, and skulked off slowly at right angles, their tails dragging as if they were beaten curs. On dashed our brave team, lash, lash—noo, noo.

"Hurrah!" I shouted, with a lightened heart; "we are safe this time, thank God!"

"Wait; look back," said Fatsides. I did so, and I saw the wolves, who had joined each other again in the centre track, pausing, as if to deliberate. Our horses were going at their utmost speed, the driver standing up and using lash and voice with all his might to urge them on to the station, then only about a mile and a half ahead. Luckily, the road or track, as far as we could see, was free from drift, and our hope was that we could gain the station before the wolves, should they pursue us. Looking back just as we returned a bend in the track, I saw the whole pack in swift pursuit.

I had often been told that wolves will not attack a party unless in a large pack. Six was no large pack, yet here they were coming up to attack us; there was now no doubt about that. Hunger through a long and severe winter must have made them daring. With the consciousness of an impending death struggle, I prepared for the result. My thoughts went for one moment to my wife and children, for another to the Great Disposer of events. Then, throwing off my sheepskin coat, so as not to impede the free action of my arms and legs, I sprang on the front seat beside the driver, but with my back to the horses and my face to the enemy. I said to the driver, "They are coming, brother; drive fast, but steadily. I have six bullets in this pistol. Don't move from your seat, but drive right in the centre of the track." My fat companion sat still in his corner, and neither moved nor spoke; but I saw the blade of my bear-knife gleaming in his hand.

The track had become worse, so that the horses could not maintain their pace. In a short time the wolves ran beside the sledge, the horses strained and shot on, keeping their distance, but, in forcing our way through a drift, we came to a walking pace, and the first wolf on my side made a dash at the horse next him. The pistol was within a foot and a half of his head when I fired, and the ball went through his brain. I shouted my triumph in English; my companion echoed it with a "Bravo!" The second wolf received my second fire in the leg, which must have shattered the bone, for he dropped behind instantly. "Bravo!" was again cried from the corner. But the same moment was the moment of our greatest peril. My pistol fell into the sledge, as, with a sudden jolt, our horses floundered up to their bellies in a deep drift; then they came to a dead stop, and there was a wolf at each side of the sledge, attempting to get in.

My bludgeon still remained. With both hands I raised it high and brought it down with the desperate force of a man in mortal extremity, upon the head of the wolf on my side. He tumbled over on his back, and the skull was afterwards found to have been completely smashed. As I stooped to regain my pistol, I was astonished to see my companion coolly thrust one of his arms into the wolf's mouth, and as coolly, with the disengaged hand, drawing the knife, with a deep and sharp cut, across his throat. A peculiar cry among the horses arrested my attention. Looking round, I saw another wolf actually fastened on the off-horse by the neck. The driver was between me and the wolf. He cried, "Give me the pistol." I did so, and the poor horse was free. So, also, were we; for the other wolf ran off, followed by the one with the broken leg. The wolf last shot was tumbling among the snow. The driver handed me the pistol to put right, and begged another shot at the brute. This finished the engagement.

I cannot tell how I felt. I could scarcely realise our great deliverance. The driver secured the carcasses to the sledge, and when we reached the station I was completely exhausted from the reaction of the strong excitement. My friend of the twenty stone chuckled much at his own trick upon the wolf he had killed. Instead of putting his arm into the animal's open mouth, as I supposed, he had stuffed into it the loose sleeves of his great sheepskin coat, thereby getting plenty of time to cut the monster's throat. His own arm was untouched; but the poor horse's neck and shoulder were much torn.

TERRIBLE OCCURRENCE AT FULWOOD BARRACKS.

A FEARFUL event took place on Saturday forenoon at the Fulwood Barracks, Preston—a private soldier of the 32nd Regiment having made a deliberate attempt to murder two officers by shooting at them with his rifle. There are at present at Fulwood Barracks the débris of several regiments, constituting a provisional battalion, which is under the command of Colonel Crofton. Captain Hanham is the Adjutant of the battalion, and both officers have seen much service. It appears that on Saturday morning a private soldier of the 32nd Regiment named M'Caffery, having been guilty of some neglect of duty, was brought before the officers and sentenced to fourteen days' confinement within the barracks. After going to his own room M'Caffery made no observation as to his sentence, but took down his rifle and asked a comrade for a piece of greased rag, which was given to him. He then cleaned the weapon, and afterwards retired to a private passage, where, it is supposed, he took the opportunity of loading the rifle. About eleven o'clock in the forenoon Colonel Crofton and Captain Hanham were crossing the barrack-square in company, when the report of firearms was heard, and it was immediately discovered that both gentlemen were wounded. Several officers who were walking in the square (or parade-ground) hastened to their assistance. Colonel Crofton was so severely hurt that he had to be helped to his quarters, but Captain Hanham was able to walk without aid. It would appear that, after loading his rifle, M'Caffery watched from his own room the approach of the two officers across the square, and when they were opposite to his quarters, and about sixty yards distant from him, he went into a lobby, where he was seen to kneel, take a deliberate aim, and fire at the officers. Medical aid was at once had for the wounded gentlemen, and on examination it was found that the ball had first struck Colonel Crofton in his left side, passed through the left lung, and gone out at his right side; it had then struck Captain Hanham on the upper part of the left arm and lodged near the spine. The ball was extracted about an hour afterwards. M'Caffery was at once taken into custody, and merely remarked to the soldier who apprehended him, "Take my rifle." The prisoner was conveyed to the Preston House of Correction, and there brought before Dr. Broughton, and, some formal evidence having been adduced, M'Caffery was remanded until Monday. The prisoner, who is about nineteen years of age, enlisted into the 32nd Regiment at Preston about twelve months ago. Both Colonel Crofton and the Adjutant are in great danger. It is thought probable that Captain Hanham may recover, but the gravest fears are entertained for Colonel Crofton.

Colonel Crofton and Captain Hanham have both died of the wounds inflicted upon them. It is understood that the prisoner has intimated that it was not his intention to injure Colonel Crofton, Captain Hanham having been the object of his vengeance.

On Monday M'Caffery was again brought before the magistrates, when Major Collis and others deposed to the circumstances connected with the perpetration of the crime, and the prisoner was again remanded. An inquest has been held, and a verdict of "Wilful murder" returned against M'Caffery, who stands committed for trial.

The motive for committing this dreadful crime may be gathered from the following letter from a comrade of the prisoner:—"M'Caffery has been up before the Colonel two or three times lately for very trivial things, and has been occasionally confined to barracks. A short time ago they gave him seven days in cells, and all the hair was cut off his head. Yesterday he was on picket—that is, on duty in the barracks, to keep people away from the officers' quarters. During the afternoon some children belonging to soldiers of the battalion to which he belongs were playing near the officers' mess, when the Adjutant came up and asked him 'why he allowed the children to play there?' In reply, he said he had no orders against their being allowed to do so. The Adjutant then ordered him to get the names of the parents of the children. The youngsters, however, ran away, and he could only get the name of one of them. As soon as he told the Adjutant that he could only obtain one name, the Adjutant had him placed in the guard-room. There he was kept all night, and this morning he was brought before the Colonel, who gave him fourteen days' confinement to barracks. This seems to have exasperated him to such an extent that he determined on taking revenge for being confined for so simple an affair."

A SOMEWHAT SERIOUS ACCIDENT happened to Earl Fitzwilliam on Saturday last while hunting: the noble Earl was thrown from his horse and had his collar-bone broken, besides sustaining other injuries. He is, however, progressing favourably towards recovery.

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